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is semenced to three ars in prison they lled me Adolf because I ok like Adolf Hulet hit I dney, 55 had lold, dice after the meident at pub in Victoria, cental inden Someone should

#### Three parties merge into one

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Interior Ministry on Sunday approved the merger of three small left wing parties to form the Jordanian Democratic Unionist Party. The new party, which has two members in the 80-seat Lower House of Parliament, said it would remain in opposition and oppose normalisation of Jordan's relations with Israel. The merger of the three parties — the Arab Democratic Party, the Democratic Progressive Party and the Democratic Socialist Party headed respectively by Mazen Saket. Issa Mdanat and Ali Amer — reduces to 21 the total number of political parties in the Kingdom. When the three parties decided to merge last month they elected Mr. Mdanai as head of the new party and announced that the grouping agrees on a political programme rather than an ideological one aimed at creating a future based on Arab unity, democracy and social progress. Mr. Amer of the former Democratic Socialist Party said that the new party would work towards unifying nationalists to fight the 'negative political, social and economic impact of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on the nation."



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#### Regent condoles indonesians

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday sent a cable 10 Indonesian President Suharto expressing condolences over the death of Indonesians as a result of an earthquake which hit parts of Indonesia (see Inside). The Regent requested President Suharto to convey his condolences to the families of the victims.

#### Srour leads team on Bulgaria visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour Sunday left Amman heading a delegation on a five-day official visit to Bulgaria, during which he will discuss with senior Bulgarian officials bilateral relations in all fields and means of developing them, particularly in the parliamentary affairs, Mr. Srour will meet with the Bulgarian head of state, the speaker of parliament and members of the parliament's political affairs council. The delegation includes Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, Nawaf Al Qadi, Samih Al Farah, Nazih Ammarin, Deifallah Al Momani, Hatem Ghzawi and Hani Hijazin in addition to the head of the speaker's office, Khalid Samhouri,

#### Militants vow to avenge death

RAMALLAH (AP) -Activists vowed Sunday to avenge the death of a Palestinian prisoner whose battered body was found a day earlier in an Israeli prison cell. Mohammad Abu Sbakra, 21, was found dead Saturday night in Ketziot prison, where he was serving a fivemonth sentence for stonethrowing and membership in Hamas. An Israeli army spokesman said there were signs that Abu Shakra had been beaten to death. The death is under investigation, but results will not be available until next week, he said. In Ramallah, dozens of Palestinian youths threw stones and bottles at Israeli soldiers and set up barricades of burning tyres on Sunday to protest the death. Three Hamas activists with covered faces, dressed in khaki farigues and wielding axes. scrawled graffiti on the wall of Abu Shakra's house saving

#### Chirac envoy visits Oman

they would avenge his killing.

MUSCAT (AP) - An envoy of French President Jacques Chirac met Sunday with Omani officials to discuss the situation in Iraq and the Arab-Israeli peace process. diplomatic sources reported. Jean D. Lipkowsky, who arrived late Saturday, also briefed the officials on France's position on regional and international issues, and discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the sources said. They said that in his meeting with Haitham Ben Tareq Al Saeed, secretary-general of the Omani Foreign Ministry, Mr. Lipkowsky discussed France's controversial decision to resume nuclear testing

#### Talibans reject U.N. truce plan

MAIDAN SHAHR (R) -The Taliban movement on Sunday rejected a U.N. plan for a limited ceasefire in warravaged Afghanistan and vowed to attack Kabul to oust President Burhanuddin Rabbani. "We are not willing to consider a ceasefire," a Taliban frontline commander, Mullah Mashr, told reporters at his headquarters at Maidan Shahr, about 30 kilometres southwest of the capital. 'Rabbani has not abided by ceasefires in the past, and we will attack when we are ready," he said. Mr. Mashr was commenting on a statement by U.N. peace envoy Mabmoud Mestiri on Saturday that he was trying to bring about a limited ceasefire so he could convene a conference of all the coun-

try's warring factions,

# Women refuse to leave jail as Israel, PLO work on pullback

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Twenty Palestinian women refused to walk out of their jail cells on Sunday in solidarity with female detainees whose release Israel has blocked in violation of the West Bank

autonomy accord. But the protest did not prevent the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from meeting a senior Israeli military official to fix dates for the army's withdrawal from the West Bank. The two sides failed to agree and were to meet again on Tuesday.

An lg-year-old woman, saying she was unaware of the prison protest, became tbe first Palestinian prisoner to go home under the West Bank deal,

The 20 other women, held at Sharon prison at Tel Mond, near Tel Aviv, refused to sign a pledge that Israel has demanded of all Palestinians being freed.

"We received files with pardons for 21 women. Twenty of them refused to sign the statements and they remain in prison. Only she (Abu Laban) was willing to sign." prison authority spokesman Moshe Malul told

The released I8-year-old, who was sentenced to seven years in jail in 1992 for trying to stab a policeman, agreed to sign and went free from Ramleh prison, where she had been held in solitary con-

Bashayir Abu Laban returned to her home in East Jerusalem to an emotional welcome from her family. "I am happy for my release but I was sad when I found out that my fellow prisoners are not coming out." the teenager said, adding that she

cess with Israel. Israeli President Ezer Weizman has blocked the release of two Palestinian women with Israeli "blood on their hands," sparking protests from the PLO which said the decision violated the West Bank deal signed on

now supported the peace pro-

Under the accord to extend Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank, all Palestinian women in Israeli jails were to go free. But Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the government had to bow to the president's constitutional

The army has also refused to free at least another two Palestinian women since Mr. Weizman's decision. announced on Friday. according to Israeli radio. The fate of several women

Palestinian officials blasted Israel for violating the agreement by not releasing the four women. In the Sept. 28 agreement, Israel promised to release "all female detainees and prisoners" in the first stage of the prisoner release.

was still unclear on Sunday.

"It's a bad omen for the implementation of the whole agreement." Palestinian Municipal Affairs Minister Saeb Erekat told the Associated Press.

"The agreement on this issue is black and white. Israel has no excuse whatsoever to stall,

Hisham Abdul Razak, chief Palestinian negotiator on prisoners, said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had personally promised the women's release when the two sides finalised the autonomy accord last

The Israel-PLO agreement calls for an Israeli troop withdrawal from Palestinian towns in the West Bank. Palestinian general elections,

and the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails.

The women's refusal to leave the prison threw into question the release due on Tuesday of between 1,100 and 1,200 Palestinian men. after a holiday Monday for a Jewish feast.

But PLO leader Yasser Arafat played down any talk of a crisis at a meeting overnight with Mr. Peres. He said Mr. Weizman had pledged to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to free all the

"This subject has been arranged between President Mubarak and President Weizman; it is between them," said Mr. Arafat at the Erez crossing from Israel into the Gaza Strip.
Israel holds a total of

around 6.000 Palestinian pris-

General Ilan Biran, army commander for the West Bank, and General Abdul Razzak Al Yahya, the chief Palestinian official on a security liaison committee. also met at Erez to fix dates for the army's redeployment. "We did not reach an

agreement ... there are still

(Continued on page 7)

## Arafat releases Hamas leader

GAZA (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority released senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Al Zahar, who was lailed on June 26, in Gaza Strip on Sunday, witnesses said.

Dr. Zahar was arrested during a Palestinian police crackdown against the group whose militants have killed scores of Israelis in suicide Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace

Arafat aide, Ahmad Tibi, hinted after talks with Hamas leaders that the PNA would free more Hamas prisoners

activists arrested in June 26, a day after a Hamas militant wounded three Israelt sol-diers in a suicide attack in the south of the Gaza Strip.
Police said Yasser Arafat. who is head of the PNA,

was among around 50 Hamas

appeal from two Arab-Israeli mediators, Sheikh Abdullah Nimer Darwish and Ahmad But three other leading

"I am sure that this is not the only step that will take place in the near future," he told reporters. Dr. Zahar, a paediatrician, PNA but was not committed

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian

rivals clashed on Sunday

ahead of a ceasefire and more

civilians died in shelling but

the West, confident it would

take effect on Tuesday.

started to discuss the cost of

rebuilding the devastated re-

Bosnian Serb and mainly-

Muslim government troops supported by Croatian forces

jostled for territory in north-

west Bosnia as the United

States presented proposals

for Russia to take part in an

international force to imple-

Heavy fighting broke out

along Serb-Muslim con-

frontation lines in northwest

Bosnia on Sunday, Bosnian

army sources and eyewitnes-

They said fierce artillery

and rocket duels were raging to the north and east of

Bosanska Krupa. There was "heavy fighting" along a

frontline between Otoka and

Military observers have

speculated that the warring

Bosnian government and

Serb sides might make a last-

minute land grab before the

U.S.-brokered ceasefire,

especially after about 400

Croatian troops reached the

area to reinforce Muslim

"Heavy fighting is going on along the whole frontline be-

tween Otoka and Kliuc, We

shall see the results in the

evening and tomorrow," Bri-

gadier Mirsad Selmanovic

told reporters in Bosanska-

Krupa, 20 kilometres east of

Other military sources said

ment a peace accord.

ses said.

ordered his release after an

di, stayed in jail, police said. Shortly after his detention.

off their beards. Hamas said meanwhile it

officials rounded up at the same time as Dr. Zahar. Ahmad Bahar, Sameh Abu Sameh and Salameh Al Safa-

Dr. Zahar and other detainees were forced to shave

backed a mediation with the

Bosnia ceasefire is still

on track despite battles

the fiercest fighting was in the area of Otoka, 12 kilometres

to the north, and some seven

kilometres to the east of Kru-

pa. A Western monitor said

beavy artillery, mortar and rocket fire had been going on

In northern central Bosnia,

10 people were killed and at

least 10 more were wounded

when their refugee camp was

shelled, apparently by separ-

atist Serbs on Sunday, the

Zivinice was shelled at about

1145 this morning according

to (U.N. military observers)

and at least 10 people were

killed and many others in-

jured," said Jim Landale, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo.

Despite the fighting, pros-pects for the ceasefire im-

proved after the government said technical delays to res-

toring electricity and gas in Sarajevo would not affect its

Bosnian Prime Minister

Haris Silajdzic said gas from

Russia was due to start flow-

ing on Sunday through an

international pipeline cros-

sing territory held by the

Sarajevo pray restoration of

the city's utilities and the

ceasefire will spare them

another freezing winter and

end the daily grinding tasks

of quening for water under

the threat of snipers and artil-

The besieged city has been

A spokeswoman for the

without water, electricity and

gas for the past six months.

U.N. peacekeeping force said

Suffering citizens of

rebel Bosnian Serbs.

"The refugee centre at

U.N. said.

riming.

since the early morning.

A delegation which left for Sudan last week was a mediation team, it said.
"The delegation which left to mediate between Hamas

to halting anti-Israeli attacks.

and the Palestinian Authority does not represent Hamas, it explained in a statement released in autonomous Gaza "It's a mediation team ences between Hamas and

the authority... But Hamas appreciates all efforts to reunite the Palestinian peo-. ple and to achieve national The group stressed that it

had "not committed itself to freezing military operations Israeli radio reported Fri-

(Continued on page 7)

Serb soldiers were clearing

landmines around electricity

pylons which needed repair.

set the restoration of utilities

to Sarajevo as a pre-

condition for the ceasefire

which peace envoys hope will

lead towards ending the 31/2.

national conference in War-

saw on Saturday his govern-

ment needed aid of \$12 bil-

lion for post-war reconstruc-

rich allies called on the Inter-

national Monetary Fund and

the World Bank to act quick-

ly to put together a plan to

Finance ministers from the

Group of Seven (G-7) indust-

rial nations unexpectedly

highlighted peacemaking steps in Bosnia, calling in an

end-of-meeting communique

for swift action by the multi-

lateral lenders "as soon as

"The G-7 ministers

urged the IMF and the World

Bank to quickly study what Bosnia will need once a com-

prehensive peace is in place,"

U.S. Treasury Secretary

In Geneva, Russian De-

fence Minister Pavel Grachev

said the United States had

presented new proposals to

resolve a disagreement over

Moscow's role in an interna-

tional force to implement a

After talks with U.S. De-

fence Secretary William Per-

ry, Mr. Grachev was asked

(Continued on page 7)

Bosnian peace accord.

conditions warrant."

Robert Rubin said.

rebuild Bosnia.

The United States and its

Mr. Silajdzic told an inter-

The Bosnian government

### Bomb explodes at French rail track

PARIS (Agencies) - A bomb exploded on a railway near Paris early Sunday, but investigators said it was prob ably not linked to a wave of terrorist bombings - including one on Friday - attributed to extremists that has killed seven and injured 150 since late July.

The blast, which occurred at 3:10 a.m. Sunday between Marly-le-Roi and Louveciennes on a commuter line west of Paris, blew a crater 30 centimetres in the ground and damaged overhead tables, but did not cause any injuries. Rail traffic was briefly disrupted, but had resumed on schedule by late

morning.
Noting that the detonating device - an electrical wire connected to a battery — differed from those used in all the earlier bomb attacks except one, suspicion has turned towards a local perpetrator, investigators said.

Indeed, the exception was a similar overnight explosion that damaged an electricity relay stanon on Sept. 17 in the neighbouring town of Elang-la-Ville, less than two kilometres distant. That blast affected power supplies to 8.000 consumers in the area.

While these two blasts were set off manually and were apparently not intended to cause injury, the other bombs were designed to detonate with timing devices, some of which malfunctioned, the investigators noted.

Friday's explosion, which filled the modus operandi ascribed to Algeria-linked militants slightly injured 13 people in southern Paris. The attack coincided with the funeral in Lyon of an Algerian suspect. Khaled Kelkal. killed by police. The name of the metro

station where the blast occurred, "Maison Blanche," is also the name of the hamlet near Lyon where Kelkal, 24, was gunned down by paramilitary police on Sept. 29. Kelkal, whose fingerprints

were found on a railway bomb which failed to go off at the end of August, is also thought by French authorities to have been involved in other attacks, including one on a Paris suburban underground train in which seven people died on July 25. The day after the Maison

(Continued on page 7)



Kabariti said in remarks pub-lished on Sunday. 'We are concerned with

what is happening in Iraq and with the danger to the region's security posed by this country's collapse and breakup into ethnic mini-states." Mr. Kabariti told the London-based Al Hayat newspaper.
Iraq's unity is in

because of the suffering of its people and the U.N. sanctions imposed on the country after it invaded Kuwait in 1990, he told the Arabic dai-

He said Jordan would work to preserve Iraq's unity and urged other Arab states to do the same. Jordan did not want Iraq to be divided for ethnic or religious reasons, but could accept a state built along federal lines.

We believe the interests of parties and political forces in Iraq should be taken into account to prevent any political or military action which would provoke some of the



FIRSTHAND TASTE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and

Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi on Sunday taste figs during a tour that the Regent made through the capital's marketplaces accompanied by the mayor (see

Abdul Karim Kabariti

people or part of the country into seceding." he said.
Shiite Muslims constitute between 45 and 55 per cent of Iraq's IS million people, with Sunni Arabs accounting for

20 to 30 per cent and the Kurds around 20 per cent. Mr. Kabariti meanwhile criticised Syria for blocking Middle East peace. "It is not in Syria's interest to block (Arab-Israeli) accords. On the contrary it must realise

that these accords can contribute to the peace process, "The different tracks of the peace process cannot be delayed in the interest of the Syrian track" of negotiations with Israel, he said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told the

United Nations on Tuesday that Damascus would reexamine its role in the peace process if the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accords were used to harm Syrian interests.

peace treaty with Israel and the Palestinians have struck deals for autonomy from the Jewish state. Syria and its ally Lebanon have failed to achieve any breakthroughs.

Mr. Kabariti said he could not understand why Syria was refusing to take part in the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman planned for October, which is also to be attended

Syria has agreed to participate in a Nov. 27-29 conference in Barcelona. Spain. which will be attended by Mediterranean countries, in-

# 33 Palestinian expellees transit through Jordan

AMMAN (Agencies) — A group of 33 Palestinians expelled from Libya have arrived at Agaba on the Red Sea on their way to the Gaza Strip, a Jordanian official said Sunday. The Palestinians arrived

Saturday and stayed at a camp used by pilgrims on their way to Mecca, said Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Rahman Shareh, d.rector of border police at Aqaba. Col. Shareh, quoted by

the Jordan News Agency. Petra. said the Palestinians ihen left Aqaba ai dawn Sunday headed for the King Hussein Bridge, which crosses from Jordan into the West Bank, From there, they were to travel to the Gaza Strip. Jordan permits Palesti-

nians holding Jordanian passports to enter its territory and only lets those who have Israeli authorisation to transit to the Palestinian self-rule areas. A total of 177 Palestinians have crossed Jordan since Sept. 27 to reach the Gaza Strip.

Libva announced at the beginning of September that it would expel the 30.000 Palestinians residing on its territory to show the "failure" of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord establishing Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. About 900 expelled Palestinians who do not have proper travel papers are stuck at the no-man's land between Libyan and

Egypt has refused to allow Palestinians to cross its territory unless they are assured of reaching another

Egyptian borders.

The road between the two countries was reopened to traffic late Saturday after Palestinians ended a profest that had blocked the border to vehicles for most of the day. Egyptian border officials

Security sources at the Egyptian border post of Salloum said a group of 200 demonstrators had agreed to reopen the route for 72 hours but would demonstrate again if no solution was found to their plight.

In an interview published Sunday, PLO leader Yasser Arafat urged Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi to stop expelling Palestinians from Libya.

"I urge him, in the name of Arab fraternity, to put an end quickly to the unjust decisions taken regarding Palestinians." said Mr. Arafat in an interview with

the Egyptian news agency MENA published by the Al Ahram newspaper here. The Palestinians have

been subjected to systemanc witchhunts in other (Arab ) countries after the Libvan decision. Similar measures have been taken by the Lebanese authorities with regard to Palestinians holding Lebanese travel documents," he said.

Al Ahram, citing a Palestinian diplomat in Tri-poli, said 2.500 Palestinians have registered at the Palestinian embassy to return 10 Syria. Among them are 1.700 holding Syrian travel documents who have to return within a week, and 800 with Lebanese travel documents.

Lebanon has refused to accept Palestinians expelled from Libya.

Since the beginning of October, 600 Palestinians expelled from Libya have left for Syria by boat. Al Ahram said.

Mr. Arafat's appeal followed talks on Friday between Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Colonel Qadhafi, which resulted in Egypt raising hopes that the Libyan leader would back off his campaign to expel all Palesti-

makamba newspapet Hitler look-alike

haka, according to the

to stabben a pub mener er being taunted for sembling Adolf Hiller

d suffers from a count intality and a believing ge world with in his attraction of the history ayer Nicholas Bleaner

'stee hell' and that made angry. Ar Edncy had planted after thrusing a ort red handled blade at stimum, who was slight citi on the chat. mey, who wells a shall mstache similar to the or dictalet s. Is leady

# Ramallah waits in wings as Palestinian business capital

RAMALLAH (AFP) — As the intifada graffiti fades off the walls and its 40,000 residents look to self-rule, the bustling town of Ramaliah on Jerusalem's doorstep is turning into the Palestinian business capital.

Ramallah is a mere 10minnte drive from Jerusalem, set amid rocky, alive-tree dotted hills at the centre of a futnre Palestinian entity which the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) in-sists will one day become a

The town is hracing itself for an economic boom and seeks to lure investors with stability. Unlike the flashpoint town of Hebron, it is free of holy sites that can attract tourists hnt can also become the focus of religious

"We want to restore our city as the pride of Pales-tine," said Khalil Mussa Khalil, the town's mayor.

While encouraging the trend to turn Ramallah into a husiness capital, he cautions against forecasts that the town could take the place of Jerusalem, although several self-rule ministries are already in place.
"We don't approve of talk

of Ramallah as the next capital, our only capital is Jerusalem." he insisted. On the eve of self-rule,

ABU DHABI (R) — Young Filipina maid Sarah

Balahagan hegins an

appeal trial on Monday

hoping for freedom but

many United Arab Emi-rates (UAE) nationals in-

sist ber death sentence for

in public as a warning to

others. If you come bere to

work you bave to respect

our laws. This is the United

Arab Emirates, not the

Philippines or the West,"

said government employee

after an Islamic court in Al

'Ain condemned Ms. Bala-

bagan to death on Sept. 16

for the premeditated mur-

der of ber UAE employer

bas fuelled resentment

among nationals of this Gulf Arab federation.

Reflecting the view of many in this oil-rich emi-

rate, the court rejected Ms.

Balahagan's claim that she

stabbed Almas Mohammad

Al Baloushi 34 times in

self-defence after wrestling

his knife away during a

ated the Philippines, reig-

niting passions that swept

the country after another Filipina maid, Flor Con-

templacion, was hanged in

Singapore in March for

It bas also tarnished the

image of the UAE, anger-

ing officials who have said

that pressure from Manila

could jeopardise Ms. Bala-

bagan's chances for free-

dom in an appeal trial ex-

pected to last up to two

double murder.

The verdict bas infuri-

The uproar that erupted

"She should be executed

murder must stand.

**UAE** nationals

insist on execution

for Filipina maid

mobile phones, satellite dishes, BMW cars and mountain bikes are already common sights in Ramallah, a town long noted as a baven for the political elite and intel-

With Bir Zeit University nearby, the town has Muslim and Christian committee, while Jewish settlements stand on neighbouring hill-tops, Al Birch is its twin

Under the West Bank selfrule accord, which the Israeli parliament endorsed on Friday, the army is to withdraw from all Palestinian towns barring Hebron by the end of the year. Patrois in Ramallah have already been eased.

Hundreds of new firms are planning to set up here, while small to medinm-sized businesses, such as pharmacentical companies, are already flourishing.

Major investors, however, are waiting to see what self-rule brings, although a construction hoom is already nnderway, along with work on new roads and a sewage

New building this year covered 112,000 square metres up until June, compared to 78,000 square metres for the whole of 1993, the year before self-rule was launched in Gaza and Jericho, the

The outrage over the

case has left some UAE

Abdullah Belouni, manar of the Arah Bank branch in Manara Square that reopened in December for the first time since 1967, said almost all loans were going out to construction.

Land prices have rocketed. In the centre of town, a donum of prime real estate can now sell for as much as a million dollars.

Abu Afif, a 57-year-old developed, returned from Brazil in 1994 and has demolished an old building off the square to huild a 10storey block, including a billiards hall and a branch of the U.S. ebildren restanrant chain KFC.

The town has close links with the United States, where hundreds of families have emigrated since the end of the last century.

Red-tiled villas have sprouted up on the outskirts of Ramallah, a district of 300,000 inhabitants, although prices have tripled, according to Salahadin Jahr Alodeh of the newly-rehoused chamber

of commerce.
Mr. Aloudeb said the town is already the centre of Palestinian banking, with 12 new branches opening soon. But the gold rush since the end of the intifada, or Palestinian nprising, also has its down side.

#### Kamel's case against Alef Baa is dismissed

nationals wondering why their traditionally low-key country has come under international fire. The Justice Ministry bas backed the death sentence. but the government is pur-

suing a reconciliation for-mula with Baloushi's fami-Officials will try again to persuade the family to drop the death sentence in ex-

change for blood money, an official said. Ms. Balabagan's and younger sister arrived in the UAE on Saturday to plead for her life and are carrying an affidavit showing that she is 16. The UAE says she is 27 based on documents Philippine officials say were forged.

\_UAE President Sheikh

Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan ordered a retrial after the same Al 'Ain court in June sentenced Ms. Balabagan to seven years imprisonment for manslaughter.

It also awarded her comensation after concluding

she bad been raped.
The UAE federal supreme court must endorse any death sentence and an execution must be approved by Sheikh Zayed.

President Fidel Ramos said he would ask Sheikh Zayed to pardon Ms. Balabagan if the death sentence

Few UAE nationals appear to favour clemency. "In the street, the word the death sentence should be carried out," said

Jamal Al Hosany.

AMMAN (J.T.) - An Iraqi court has dropped a case against two Iraqi journalists filed by former Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel, who defected to Jordan in

The case was filed against Najlaa Qader from Alef Baa magazine and her editor Amir Al Helou on alleged defamation charges, the Al Ra'i daily reported.

On Jan. 25, 1995 Alef Baa published a report about the sence from the markets of tomatoes grown in green houses. It quoted farmers as saying that one of the reasons was that no plastic cover was available to the farmers from the concerned authorities and that some of the sbeets produced by the Ministry of Industry were sold in the black market to selected farmers.

Following the publication of the report, Lieutenant-General Kamel sued the magazine's editor and the reporter accusing them of libel against a government estab-

Court Judge Ibrahim Hindawi, who studied the case, announced that after examining the case he found no defamation or slander against any Iraqi official or the Ministry of Industry, Al Ra'i

"The report merely reported the words of farmers who had suffered from the damage to their crops due to the lack of plastie sbeets and their inability to purchase plastic sheets whose prices were skyrocketing on the hlack market," added the



Regent, on Sunday chats with citizens during a tour of Amman (see page 3) (photo by Boghos)

# UAE steps up its campaign against drugs and alcohol

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arah Emirates (UAE) has stepped up a campaign to combat drugs and alcohol amid growing ahuse in the country and a surge in nareoties-trafficking from Pakistan and other Asian countries.

A few months after it decided enforce the death penalty against drng-smugglers, the government last week created a Higher Committee for Combatting Drugs and Intoxicants to spearhead the drive.

Officials said around five million dirhams (\$1.36 million) had already been earmarked for the committee as an initial hudget.
"The committee will map

out strategies, policies and programmes to fight narcotics and intoxicants through-out the country," Interior Minister Mohammad Said Al Badi told the official news agency WAM.
"The creation of the com-

mittee illustrated our leaders' keenness to take more effective measures to tackle this problem and protect onr youth. It also underscores the need for a comprehensive and radical action," he said. The committee is beaded Sheikh Sultan Ber

Al Nahayan, the deputy prime minister, and composed of senior representatives from the Interior Ministry, intelligence, the central bank, and the ministries of foreign affairs, education,

CAIRO (AP) — Lihya paid \$50,000 to an Egyptian

opposition party - in viola-

tion of Egyptian law — to obtain political favours,

Egypt's most prominent

The weekly Rose Al

Yousef published a copy of a

letter from a top Libyan offi-

cial authorising the payment in 1991 to Mustafa Kamel

Murad, leader of the small.

The magazine, which is government-owned but with

a reputation for aggressive,

investigative reporting, said the \$50,000 payment was part of Colonel Moammar Qadha-

fi's programme to fund Egyp-

tian opposition parties in re-

opposition Liberal Party.

magazine said Snnday.

bealth, information, Islamic affairs and other depart-

Officials said the campaign would include television programmes, seminars, leaflets and sermons against drug abuse during open-air Friday prayers. The Health Ministry will

also expand existing programmes to treat drug addicts, who are pardoned if they turn themselves in.

Mr. Badi, a former army chief, said the committee would boost cooperation with other Gulf states and countries ontside the region to

fight drugs. "We will dedicate Friday sermons to highlight the hazards of narcotics and intoxicants and urge our youth 10 stay away from such harm-ful things." Sheikh Mohammad Al Khazraji, minister of Islamie affairs and endowments, said.

Dubai police commander Dabi Khalfan said there was a need to bolster the country's coast and border guard and tighten control of small harbours.

Police records showed most of the smuggled drugs over the past decade came by sea from neighbouring Iran, countries.

More than eight tonnes seized in the past three years, involving basbisb, beroin, cocaine, opium and other drugs. The bulk of those arrested in this connection

Libyans paid \$50,000 to Egyptian

opposition leader - Rose Al Yousef

turn for their support of

comment on the charges Sun-

It was not clear why the

weekly chose to publish the

letter now, but it comes a

month before parliamentary

elections that President Hos-

ni Mnharak's party has

sought to make free and fair.

group with little influence that gained some notoriety

during the 1991 Gulf war

when it supported Iraq.

Several opposition parties

bave set up in Egypt in recent

years, but none pose a chal-

lenge to Muharak's ruling

The Liberal Party is a small

Mr. Murad declined to

were Pakistanis, Iranians and Africans.

Apart from the surge in trafficking operations, officials have been alarmed by what they call the spread of drug addiction among their own people. Several UAE men were reported to have died from overdoses in the past few years.

"This problem has become very serious. We fell it is time to act before it gets out of control," a senior police officer told AFP.

"Enforcement of the death penalty could deter interna-tional gangs. We have to take action at the same time to safeguard our youth from in-dulging in such crimes," he said.

Despite the introduction of capital punishment early this year, police have reported serveral narcotic smuggling attempts, although they involved relatively small quan-tities seized mostly at sea.

Experts believe the UAE, a major oil producer; remains one of the most vulnerable to narcotic-trafficking in the region because of its proximity to drug-producing states in Asia, the presence of large foreign communities and its long coastline.

An Iranian crackdown on drug trafficking is also to hlame, they said, as smugglers were forced to switch routes through the emirates and other countries to reach their destinations in Europe.

# **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Egypt and U.S. to hold war games

CAIRO (R) - The annual joint exercises between the Egyptian and U.S. armed forces, known as Bright Star, will take place in November, Egyptian Chief of Staff Salah Halahi said in an interview published on Sunday. This year France, Britain and the United Arab Emirates will also take part, he told the government newspaper Akhhar in an interview marking the Arab-Israeli war of 1975. The exercises were first held after Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty in 1979 as a sign of better relations and Egypt's shift away from dependence on the Soviet Union for weapons and training. They have taken place almost every year since. Lieutenant-General Halabi did not say how many troops would take part in the exercises or how long they would last.

#### Rock of emerald to be sold at auction

DUBAl (AFP) — An 80-kilogramme rock glittering with raw emerald is to be sold at auction in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), officials said Sunday. The auction at the Sharjah Expo Centre has been delayed until a later date to allow huyers from abroad to attend after not enough people turned up for Saturday's event, an official for the centre. Adnan Abu Hijah, said. The auction started at \$50 million but was cancelled after only 12 of the 31 people who had registered turned up, he said. "Many people called from abroad showing interest, but did not have the time to come to the United Arch Emisater." he said "So the come to the United Arab Emirates," he said. "So the auction was delayed to a date that will be announced later." The rock belongs to a Mauritian, Mr. Abu Hijab

#### Women-chasers face one year in jail

DUBAl (AFP) - Cruising in cars for women, with the usual cat-calls and whistles, has become a crime in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "The harassment of girls in public places has become a serious problem in some parts of the country," the Khaleej Times newspaper said, quoting officials. The government has ordered vice squads to apply severe penalties on the stalker." First-time offenders will get a one-month prison term, and if the violation is repeated, penalties include one year in jail and a fine of 60,000 dirhams (\$16,000), the officials said. The instrument of the crime - the car - will be impounded and expatriate women-chasers will be deported after serving their jail sentence. Many women have complained about being chased by young men in fast cars, the officials said, adding that another teasing technique was 10 drive slowly near the sidewalk and follow the women as they walk. And beware of acts performed inside the vehicle. officials said, warning that "those who use their cars for immoral purposes will be jailed for six months."

#### Kuwait jails man for killing 'witch'

KUWAIT (R) - A Kuwait court upheld a 10-year jail term against a man who killed a sister-in-law he suspected had made his wife ill by witchcraft, a newspaper said on Sunday. The man fired six bullets into the woman's head and then "rushed hack to the hospital to see if the spell had left his wife, only to find that she had died." At Qabas daily reported. The appeal court rejected defence arguments the defendant acted in line with an Islamic rule allowing killing of witches. Islam, which hans witchcraft, says a judge can order the execution of witches after a trial. Al Qahas said the man found items used by witches in the victim's house.

#### **Oman buys Swiss anti-aircraft guns**

DUBAI (R) - Oman has bought Swiss 35-millimetre anti-aircraft guns made by a unit of Oerlikon, diplomatic sources said on Sunday. The sources said the contract, which was also sought by Britain's GEC-Marconi, was signed on Oct. 3. No details of the size or value of the deal were immediately available. The official Omani News Agency on Sunday quoted Jund (soldier) Oman magazine as saying the weapons would be deployed in November ien the country celebrates its 25th national day. Oman's military modernisation programme is not as extensive as those in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait and Iran across the Gulf waterway. Two French fast patrol warships last month joined the Omani navy, while delivery of 18 British Challenger Two tanks began this year.

#### Talibans say they will allow women education

ISLAMABAD (R) — A senior U.N. official said on Saturday that Afghanistan's Taliban Islamic movement had assured him it would allow women to be educated in areas it controls. Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen told reporters in Islamabad that the assurance was given to him on Friday when he visited the southern Afghan town of Kandahar, the headquarters of the Talibans. Earlier press reports from the area said the Talihans had hanned girls from schools in the western town of Herat after it captured the area from pro-government forces last month. Mr. Hansen said his talks with the Talibans' Shura (council) included the question of ensuring

# Libya, flush with substan-

tial oil revenues, has often funded movements abroad as a way to increase its infinence. Such payments have long been rumoured in neighbouring Egypt, despite a han on political parties receiving that girls would be given an opportunity of education. any financing from foreign countries. The magazine said other

# SECRETARY WANTED

Public shareholder company located in Amman is in need of Executive Secretary with good command of English language Computer system and other office routine Please send C.V. to P.O. Box 925334 Amman 11110 Jordan

# JORDAN TELEVISION PROGRAMME TWO 14:00 Shelley Duvall's Bedlime Stories

	1 Tanala Indiana
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	TOTAL SOLVING
	15:00
	17:00
	Children's programme — Les
	Mondes Engloutis
	17:30
	Scrie — Les Adventuries Ou Rio
	Verde
	19:60 News in French
	19:15 Magazine — Minibus
	13:13 Magazine — Munious
	19:30 News Headlines
- 1	15.00 (45.43 Ligardille)
	19:35 McHale's Navy .
- 1	20-00 Comm Wildow
	20.00 Camp whicest
	20:00 Camp Wildest 20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
- 1	21: 10 Harts of the West
	22:00 News in English
- 1	22.25
	22:25 Inspector Morse
- 1	23:30 American Chart Show
	TOTAL TOTAL CHARLES ON W
- 1	23:59 Slamp of Greatness

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11:23	Dhuhr
	'Asr
17:16	Maghreb
18:33	, <sup>7</sup> Isha

#### **CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweifleh, Tel. 810740 -Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tcl. 661757
Terrassacta Church Tcl. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tcl. 623541.
Angilean Church Tcl. 652826
Armenism Catholic Church Tcl. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Annuan International Church Tel. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel; 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675691, The Evangelical Local Church in Tel. 811295

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

Moderate weather cooditions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be nonherly moderate to active and seas calm.

Min/Max, lemp.

14/27

EMERGENCIES

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings; Amman 35 per cent. USEFUL

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MIGHT DOTE	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hisham Kan'an	649022
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim	649028
Dr. Usamah Husscini	847280
Dr. Issam Al Asmar	890504
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778334
Al Asema pharmacy	637054
Nairoukh pharmacy	673677
Al Salam pharmacy	626720
Yacoub pharmacy	644045
Shmeisani pharmacy	627440
Name with pharmacy	03/000
Namoujh pharmacy	0.23072
Najib pharmacy	84/632
IRBID:	

Dr. Mohammad Al Qadi ... 248743 Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd ....... 989000 Khalifeh pharmacy ........ 985417 Food Control Centre ...... 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

..... 630341 rame Poice
Public Security Department
Hotel Complaints
Price Complaints
Water and Sewerage
Complaints
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111 (directory assistance)
Overseas Calls Central Amman Telephone
Repairs Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 ordan Television . 774111

Water Authority Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity .... 642362 Shmeisam Hospital 669131 University Hespital 845845 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR** 

The Arab Center for Heart and (09)900560 lbn Sina Hospital ...... (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 **Irbid** Princess Basma Hospital .... Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafees Hospital .....

Princess Hava Hospital ...... (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** 

12:40 13:30 19:30 INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT** 

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53203-5, where it should always be veri-

Egyptian opposition parties

were financed by Libya, too,

but declined to name them.

In his daily column Sunday in the party's daily Al Ahrar newspaper, Mr. Murad de-scribed Col. Qadhafi as 'the

only Arab leader who stands

with his head high at a time of

Arab surrender.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1)

17:20	Senza (RJ)
8:09	Damascus (RJ)
8:30	Joddah (RJ)
19-0A	New Delhi (RJ)
10-14	Dubai. Abu Ohabi (RJ)
10-15	Dubai. And Onadi (K)
17.13	Aqaba (RJ)
7-30	Beirut (RJ)
6:15	Cairo (RJ)
S: 10	Casablanca, Tunis / R I)
Z:40	Bangkok Jakama (R IX
2:45	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
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Other Flights (Terminal 2)

.... Khartoum ISD) ... Muscat. Abu Dhabi (GF) ...... Kiev [6U] .... Cairo (MS) .. London (BA)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

65:48 Beirut (RI) 67:00 Aqaba | RI) 11:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RI) 12:16 Cairo | RI) London (RJ)
London (RJ)
Frankfurt (RJ)
Dawascus (RJ)
Bahrain, Doha | RJ|
Dubai, Muscai (RJ) Abu Dhabi (RJ)
Damascus (RJ)

Other Filghts (Terminal 2) ...... London (KJ) ..... Islanbul (TK) ..... Rome (AZ) Bahrais, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

na 8:00 every Monday 5:00 p.m. every Monday

.... Kiev (6U) .... Cairo (MS) Marrow (large) Marrow Ismall) Muhukhia Damascus, London (BA)
Amsierdam (KL) 380/280 250/ 180 Pepper (hor) 2217 150 Pepper (sweet) 190 / 140 megranate ..... 300/200

Arr. Ammen 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

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7:30 a.m. every Sunday

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COOPERATION MISSION: Her Royal Highness

Princess Basma Sunday reviews with a visiting delega-

tion from the British Overseas Development Depart-

ment the programmes and activities carried out by Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

Princess Basma said the fund aims to develop local

communities and improve economic and social condi-

tions of families in the unprivileged areas. The Princess briefed the delegation on the educational,

health, and social services provided by QAF to

women and children around the country. She noted

the importance of the training programmes conducted

by the fund to empower women to establish and run

small income generating projects, thus helping to

improve the economic and social conditions of their

families. The delegation is here to discuss the possibil-

ity of assisting in social development in Jordan, by

helping to improve social services and upgrading the

performance of social workers. The meeting was

attended by the British Ambassador to Jordan Peter

Hinchcliffe, the executive director of QAF and depart-

AY, OCTOBER 9

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or U.N. ophical aid of an Islanic movementic in to be come red manaprotability Hemanians ers in Tsiam at Arbaids. rights when he yould the har dr. hestquarered heads or the assignment ca from proporcionida ward have tasks with the I the epity of or of ensuring

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ent forms of abuse, and learned that not all abuse is physical, said Feryal Saleh, director of the (CSD). Sbe explained that the children will have an influential part in the workshop because the CSD considers

The workshop agenda will address questions raised as a result of the chil-

dren's studies, such as: to what extent is the law actually enforced to stop domestic violence; how do police stations react if a child files a complaint against an abusive parent; and how can a child help an abused friend?

Although tackling domes-tic violence is the first priority of the workshop, the children will also discuss other areas where violence occurs, such as in schools

WHAT'S GOING ON

\* Arabic calligraphy hy Ali 'Abhadi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street.

\*A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) hy Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun, Jehel Weihdeh.

Sculptures by Iraqi artist Kazem Shamhoud at Orfali Art Gallery, Um

\*Painting and sculpture by Rafiq Lahham and Laith Al Turk at the Italian Language Centre Gallery, Shmeisani.

\*Abstract art hy the Syrian artist Mohammad Daghestani at the Phoenix Gallery.

\* Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.

 Works hy Lamia Ahdel Sahih and Samer Qusama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural Centre.

# Regent tours Amman municipality, looks in on progress of projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday tonred districts of the Greater Amman Municipality as well as municipal projects under way in the

Briefed by municipality officials throughout his visits, the Regent had called at the Amman Municipality where he met with Mayor Mamdouh Abhadi who later accompanied him to the various areas and pro-

The first stop was at the construction site of the municipality's town hall project at Ras El Ain district. Work there started earlier this year.

Prince Hassan was told that the town hall will be the meeting point between the eastern and western parts of the capital and will serve all residents.

The Regent looked at blueprints of the project which include the permanent site of the municipality offices, a public library, and multi-purpose halls.

Prince Hassan later visited the Yarmouk district and stopped at a development project where be told the

engineers in charge to keep in mind the needs and concerns of the local citizens. The Regent also underlined the importance of close coordination between the various development projects in the country and said that all such projects must take into account the pro-

tection of the environment. Later. Prince Hassan stopped hy the old central marketplace in the Wihdat district and the new market in Sahab town. At both places he was hriefed on municipality services to the merchants and farmers.

The Regent visited eastern Amman where work is under way on the construction of a sports city. While at the site, the Crown Prince received a telephone call from His Majesty King Hassein, who is on a visit to England, enquiring about progress on that project.

He also visited the Wihdat district refugee camps where he listened to residents' concerns.

At a meeting with the mayor and council members, the Regent expressed satisfaction with the progress of work on the



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday looks over blueprints on the construction site of the new Amman Municipality facility in the Ras El Ain district with Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi and several engineers responsible for the project (photo by Boghos)

### Visiting Indonesian parliamentarians review bilateral ties with counterparts

AMMAN (Petra) — Acting Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai and Speaker of the Lower House Sa'ad Hayel Srour Sunday met with a visiting Indonesian parliamentary delegation to review bilat-

ment heads (Petra pboto)

eral relations.

In a separate meeting,
Mr. Rifai stressed the
importance of Indonesia as
the largest Islamic country, and as a leading member stare of the non-aligned movement and of the Asso-

By Lola Keilani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the first

time in Jordan, boys and

girls between the ages of

nine and 15 will participate

in a workshop entitled

"Violence against children"

The workshop, which will be held at the Centre for

Social Development (CSD)

in Hay Nazal, will discuss

different types of abuse and

The 35 children chosen to

participate in the one-day

event have been conducting

their own research on the

theoretical definition of

abuse and violence for the

past six months, and have

studied the Jordanian law

concerning the rights of the

Also, as part of their prac-

tical training, the children met with peers who them-

selves are victims of differ-

their contribution important

in belping to find solutions

their effect on children.

with various experts.

Nations (ASEAN). Mr Rifai said be boped

that the delegation's visit will contribute positively to further enhancing parliamentary relations between both countries.

... He also referred to the first meeting of the Jordanian-Indooesian Committee in 1993, saying that the sec-ond meeting will be held here early next year.

Heading the Indonesian delegation is Hassan Ismail ciation of South East Asian Mitarium who praised the

Children to participate alongside

experts in child abuse workshop

to the debilitating problem

of child abuse, said Ms

The children participating

in the workshop coordinated with the CSD and invit-

ed violence experts, to dis-

cuss the psychological and

legal aspects of child abuse.

shop all come in contact

with child abuse and vio-

lence almost on a daily

lawyer, a police officer, a

psychologist, the head of

the Educational Guidance

Department at the Ministry

of Education, and 10 moth-

ers from the women's com-

mittee of the CSD, said Ms

They include a

Participants in the work-

status of bilateral relations, describing them as unique and very strong.

He also praised Jordan's support for the Palestinians in helping them regain their legitimate rights on their

national soil.

Mr. Rifai conveyed the
Jordanian parliament's condolences to the government and people of Indonesia wbo suffered the loss of many lives in Saturday's earthquakes which hit some parts of the Asian country.

and on the streets, said Ms.

The worksbop organisers

have asked a young girl wbo, along with her two

younger brothers, has been

physically abused by her

father for the past six years,

to present her own story to

The girl was introduced

to the centre through the

guidance department at the Ministry of Education,

which asked the centre to

help in solving the child's problem, said Ms Saleh.

The children participants

in the workshop will elect a

child to chair the event as

well as a child to act as rap-

The children will be

divided in groups according

to the different schools they

attend. The idea behind

such a method is to inform

the rest of the children on

how to deal with violence,

and encourage them to talk

about their problems, said

"Cbildren speak easily

about their problems to oth-

ers of their own age, and

because the children partic-

ipating in workshop are

well informed, they can

help others tremendously."

the participants.

porteur.

Ms. Saleh,

# Public buses to undergo JD 700,000 refurbishment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Transport Corporation (PTC) plans to borrow up to JD 700,000 from a local bank to refurbish its fleet of buses operating within the Amman area, according to Marwan Khitan the corporation's direc-

tor general Sunday.
The refurbishing process will require at least one year to complete, he said. Mr. Khitan told the Jordan Times that the corporation owns 240 buses of which 100 are idle because

The repair of the buses will be carried out at PTC workshops in Tareq town near Amman, Mr. Khitan

According to the corporation's estimate, the JD 700,000 loan from a local bank is less costly than purchasing new huses from a local company or from abroad, be said.

The renovation of each bus will cost nearly JD 12,000.

Mr. Khitan said that in 1993, the corporation repaired several large buses, which were later lent out to a firm that transported pilgrims to Mecca. He said Jordan bas 13

companies operating approximately 550 small buses, many of them in the Amman area, under the supervision of the PTC.

Mr. Khitan said that around 60 bus seats are vandalised by passengers daily, cost the PTC nearly JD 7 per seat or a JD 13,000 a month in repairs.



The Public Transportation Corporation's workshops in town of Tareq near Amman

Criminal Court to hear 3 murder cases

# Government to announce details on rift valley proposals

AMMAN (Petra) — The government will announce the details of three projects to be carried out in the Jordan Rift Valley at the upcoming Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference on Oct. 29, according to Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Qusai

**Quteishat Sunday.** The feasibility studies on the three projects, financed through a grant from the United States, have been finalised and are ready for review by investors, Mr.

Qutetshat said.

The three projects include the Aqaba-Eilat airport, the Agaba seaside resort, and a telecommunications system for the Jordan Valley, he

Towards the end of last

consultancy firms was selected to prepare comprehensive programmes on tourism, transport, energy and telecommunications for the development of the valley.

The firms were also entrusted with carrying out a feasibility study on the concept of a Dead Sea-Red Sea canal, Mr. Quteishat

The study will be funded hy the Italian government at a cost of \$3 million and will be completed in 18 months, according to Mr.

Quteishat. Jordan will also submit a project worth \$500 million for pumping water from Disi in southern Jordan to

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court will begin hearing testimony in three separate murder trials in the next few weeks, judicial sources said Sunday.

The first case involves a man who allegedly stabbed a 28-year-old woman and her six-month child to death in Shmeisani on March 27.

At the time, police had said "that there was sufficient evidence to indict him.'

The bodies of Maha M.H. and her son Samer were found in the apartment which the suspect had rented in Shmeisani, according

to police reports. The second case involves two men, Kamel Kamal, 22, and lyad Qassem, 28, who are charged with stabhing death of Munif Hammad on June 19, in Sweileh.

The body of Mr. Hammad

was discovered at dawn the next day, on the steps of Ali, Rukabi School in Sweileh.

The victim was stabbed several times also received a hlow to the head, police

had said. Police suspected that Mr. Hammad was killed

because of a feud. The third case involves a man charged with killing and cutting up the hody of a

man in his mid-20s in Salt on Aug. 14. According 10 police reports, the motive behind this crime was a feud over

Infant killed in accident

the price of a car.

Meanwhile, an eightmonth child was accidentally run over hy a vehicle driven hy her uncle in Mafraq Saturday, according to police reports.

The report said that the victim, Salam Nasim, was playing in the hackyard of official said.

her house when her uncle Munir T., who did not see the toddler, put his car in reverse and ran over the child.

Also on Saturday in Amman, a 24-year-old woman was listed in crinical condition at Jordan University Hospital after suffering second and third degree hums, the reports said.

The victim's father, who was not identified, told police that his daughter, idenufied only as K.H.A., was in the kitchen frying potatoes when he heard her screaming for help, according to police.

"Apparently her clothes caught fire," police reports

Hospital officials Sunday told the Jordan Times the victim received hums to 77 per cent of her body.

"She is currently listed in critical condition .hut we are expecting an improvement in her condition within the next few weeks," the

### Refinery study recommends expansion

AMMAN (Petra) — A study by the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) has recommended that the Zarqa refinery he expanded gradually to meet

> JPRC Director General Abdul Wahah Zouhi said the study looked into the possibility of importing oil products from other countries as well as the estah-

next 15 years. ..

growing needs over the

lishment of another refinery. At present, the refin-

ery at Zarqa is the kingdom's only such facility. Mr. Zoubi said the study

also recommended either laying a 20-inch diametre pipeline from Aqaha to Zarga or from Iraq to Zarga to pump necessary supplies of crude oil.

According to Mr. Zoubi. the study also recommended that another refinery be constructed at Agaha to process crude oil and help meet the country's needs and perhaps even export quantities of refined oil from the sea port. He said a new refinery would cost up to \$2.5 billion and would have a maximum production capacity of 250,000 barrels a day.

He said the expansion of the existing refinery would cost \$600 million, and the oil products would be marketed in Jordan and exported to the Palestine self-rule

"Kufr Qasim" (in Arahic) at the Phoenix Gallery, Gardens Street at 7.30pm.

"Rien du Tout" at the French Cultural Centre "Death of a Salesman," at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

#### LECTURE

"The Common Characteristics of Arah Progressive Movements" by Abdul Ghaffar Shukur at

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6.00pm.

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

# Conservative MP defects to Labour in body blow to Major

LONDON (R) — A senior Mawhinney, fighting to Conservative member of contain the political damage parliament has defected to the opposition Labour Party. dealing a hody blow to Prime Minister John Major on the eve of his party's annual conference.

Alan Howarth's shock move — he is the first Conservative ever to "cross the floor" of parliament to join Labour — reduced Mr. Major's already fragile majority in parliament to Attacking the party that

has been in office since 1979 but is oow deeply unpopular with voters, the former minister said: "There is an arrogance of power and a harshness within the government which is damaging to our democracy."
"There is a kind of list-

lessoess, a lack of visioo,' the former minister told **BBC Television Sunday.** Cooservative

from Mr. Howarth's resignation, said the decision was hizarre, ecceotric and

Mr. Major, who in June fought off a right-wing challenge to his leadership after mooths of snipiog, hoped to week's Conservative conference to stage a political fighthack in the ruo-up to the next election, due by mid-1997.

But Mr. Howarth's defection has giveo valuable ammunitioo to Labour, already in buoyant mood after its own annual conference resoundingly backed centrist leader Tooy Blair. Mr. Howarth, who had a

safe seat in William Shakespeare's hirthplace town of Stratford-Upon-Avon, switched sides after secret talks with the modernist Blair, whose own party has abandoned much of its socialist dogma. Deputy Labour leader run

John Prescott, welcoming Mr. Howarth into the party. said: "This is a further blow to John Major and his divided and despised party."

Conservatives stunned after Mr. Howarth annouoced his resignation Saturday night. The timing could not have been worse, severely bruising morale on the eve of the party confer-eoce in the holiday resort of Blackpool.

Conservatives already trail Labour hy more than 20 perceotage points in opinion polls. Voters are angered by pol-

icy U-turns, party in-fighting over Britain's role in the European Unioo, allegations of sleaze and a string of sexual and financial scandals. Conservative

grandee Lord Howe, whose bitter attack on Mr. Major's predecessor Margaret Thatcher led to her downfall, eveo hinted that time had finally be forgiven a shiver." for

"We live in a democracy.

Even the Conservatives doo't have the secret of eternal life. Power must change from time to time," he warned last week.

Conservatives hoping to attack Mr. Blair for making spendthrift promises in his conference speech were given little ammunition. Everything Mr. Blair

promised - smaller class sizes, cable links for schools - would either be funded by cuts elsewhere or provided free by grateful companies who have been cosying up to Labour as it looks increasingly like a government in waiting.

Hailing the speech as an election turning point, the Economist magazine coocluded: "His speech and this conference could be seen in retrospect as the decisive momeot. Eveo the Tories, who never yield easily, may

Franciscan friars of the Immaculate Church from New Bradford, Massachusetts, pray with Pope John Paul II during a mass in New York (AFP photo)

# Pope prays as AIDS activists protest

NEW YORK (R) — Pope John Paul enjoyed a popstar's reception from 125,000 New Yorkers Saturday and filled a city cathedral with adoring faithful hut gays and feminists staged the first serious protests of his U.S. tour.

Devoot Roman Catholics prayed with their spiritual leader in St. Patrick's Cathedral, many of them weeping with joy and claiming a special religious

experience. But more than 200 gay and lesbian demonstrators, kept at a distance outside hy riot police, shouted "stop AIDS, stop the homopho-

bia, stop the Pope." Police ripped down a three-storey high banner declaring "condoms save lives" that AIDS activists unfurled from the roof of the Saks Department Store

opposite St. Patrick's. Six demonstrators were arrested over the banner and four others during a separate protest march. In the march, actress Olympia Dukakis and feminist leader Gloria Steinem led several hundred womeo demanding the church eod its bans against abortion and women priests.

"We are oot here agaiost the Pope. The Pope is against us." Ms. Steinem said. "We're to encourage women not to lose hope just because the Pope is in town and there's such a productioo ahont it," said Dukakis. But the adulation far outweighed the protests,

the Pope's conservanve policies here. Many famous Americans took the chance to be at the

despite the uopopularity of

Pope's side. Rightwiog Evangelist Pat Robertson was a surprise guest at the Pope's huge mass for 125,000 people in Ceorral

religious leaders at the side of the altar. Robertson later Mr. attended a meeting between the Pope and mote than 30

Christian and Muslim lead-

Park, sitting on a podium of

Veteran comedian Bob Hope, and New York's top political leaders including Mayor Rudolph Giuliani were in St. Patrick's where the Pope recited the rosary.

The Pope got a rapturous welcome when he transformed Central Park ioto a huge outdoor cathedral.

He told a whooping, cheering crowd America was a brave nation. "Do not be afraid always to search for God. theo you will truly be the land of the free and home of

the brave." The crowd in the park, green heart of New York. listened intently to his message of compassion for AIDS sufferers, the poor

and the homeless. The Pope also pressed his crusade against abortion, a burning issue in America. urging Catholics to work against it, and condemned pomography and so-called assisted spicide

#### Fergie still out of favour with royals --- paper

LONDON — Britain's Queen Elizabeth will keep the Ducbess of York from the limelight if she reunites with her estranged husband Prince Andrew, according to the Mail On Sunday newspaper. Britain's press have reported the couple, who separated io 1992, are in love again and ready to make a new start. But Queen Elizabeth is adamant the duchess will not be allowed to resume royal duties, the Mail said. "It has become clear that the queeo has oo intentioo of rescioding the strict conditions imposed on the duchess wheo the marriage broke down," the newspaper said.

#### Madonna to play title role in Evita

LONDON (AFP) Singer-actress Madonna will play the title role in a film adaptation of the musical Evita about the fiery wife of former Argentice leader Juan Domingo Peron, the film's announced. producers Filmiog under the direction of British film-maker Alan Parker is scheduled to begin Jan. 18 and last 14 weeks. The film will be shot io Europe and South America, they said. Madonna will play alongside Jonathan Pryce, in the role of Juan Domingo Peroo, and Antonio Banderas in the adaption of the musical written by Andrew Lloyd Wehber and Tim Rice:

#### Michael Bolton is available

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Fluttering female hearts be still. American pop singer Michael Bolton is available, having called off a romance with actress Nicolette Sheridan. "I think it's safe to say there is still a lot between ns. It's not going to disappear," Bolton said in an interview with USA Today. "Raw is a good way to put it ... Time will tell," the loog-haired singer with the soulful voice said.

Lateral Control

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#### Julio's bad side

SAN ANTONIO (AP) -Julio Iglesias has a bad side. As the crooner greeted several hundred fans Friday at a circuit city store, he pleaded with photographers to shoot only his right side."Please no. that's my bad side," he said to one uncooperative photographer who snapped from the left. The 53-yearold was in San Antonio for a coocert to promote his new all-Spanish CD "La Саттетега."

#### Boy George takes it like a man

DALLAS (AP) - Boy George took it like a man. The British singer ordered 3 ounces of wheatgrass juice and a tall glass of carin towo to promote his new autobiography. Take It Like A Man

## China's Jiang tries to eclipse Mao

BELIING (R) — In a major defying it, for example by policy statement inspired by Chairman Mao Tsetung, China's President Jiang Zemin has told provincial leaders not to defy Beijing and said stability is fundamental to Communist Party

In his 10,000-word speech issued by Xinhua News Ageocy Suoday, Mr. Jiang announced what be called 12 major relationships that China must tackle, appareotly trying to eclipse Mao whose "10 major relatiooships" address of 1956 was among the most important of his career.

-- Addressing the closing of the fifth plenum of the 14th Communist Party Central Committee on Sept. 28, Mr. Jiang said many new problems had cropped up between the central and local governments.

departments had paid undue attention to their own interests, failed to implement central government principles and policies and went so far as to disobey orders and defy prohibitions, Mr.

liang said.
"We will not allow the existence of neither local interests oor departmental interests that jeopardise the interests of the country as a

railed at local officials for

arhitrarily raising prices and easing credit, moves the central government says jeopardise its anempts to

rein in inflatioo. power brokers.

To accomplish the targets and strategic tasks over the oext years, China must seize opportunines, deepen reforms, open up wider to the outside world and promote development and -maintain - stability, - Jiang

by handling properly the relationship between the reform, development and stability, we will be able to grasp the overall situation nomic and social development. Otherwise, we will suffer and pay for it," he

He said China was now in a period of economic transition. With "drastic changes" taking place, it was of great and immediate significance to maintain stability, be

The toppling of Beijing Communist Party boss Chen Xitong last mooth was seen by some political analysts as a coup for Jiang and a warning to defiant local

"Without a stable political and social environment, nothing can be done and it Beijing has repeatedly will be difficult to accomplish any plan oo matter

how good it is." Some people were getting rich too quickly, Mr. Jiang National income distribu-

out

tion was ioclined toward the individual and the share of the state was too small, he said, adding that the income gap between rich and poor was too big. He ruled out the possibili-

ty of allowing lumbering state enterprises to declare bankruptcy en masse.

"Only by eosuring the dominant position of the public sector can we prevent polarisation and achieve common prosperity." Mr. Jiang said.

"Practice has shown that "Any move to shake or by handling properly the give up the dominant position of the public sector will deviate from the direction of socialism."

Mr. Jiang said giving full play to the role of market mechanism and strengthening macro-control were both fundamental demands for the establishment of a socialist market economic system.

"None of them can be dispensed with. On oo account should they he separated or eveo antagonised. To stress only one side to the oeglect of the other will be detrimental to the great cause of reform and economic development," he said.

## Pakistan wants U.S. mediation on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD. Pakistan (AP) - The United States should play an aggressive role io finding a peaceful solution to the worsening lodo-Pakistan dispute over the Himalayan state of Kashmir, a senior official said Sunday.

"It is not just an India and Pakistan dispute," Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ali told reporters in the pakistanii capital. "It is the principal issoe in South Asia which threatens to destabilise the region."

During his recent trip to the United States to attend the opening sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Aseff Ali called on U.S. Defeose Secretary William Perry to urge the Clinton administration to mediate talks between India and Pakistan.

"Now the ball is in the court of the U.S. to pressure India to come to the negotiating table," Mr. Aseff Ali said.

India and Pakistan have been at odds over the Kashmir region since the territory was divided between the two countries at the end of British rule in 1947.

Despite repeated efforts and offers from the United Nations for mediation, neither India nor Pakistan has been able to agree to meet to discuss the growing rift over Kashmir.

Pakistan believes the Kashmir issue onght to be kept separate from other hilateral topics. India, on the other hand, maintains it most be taken as only one part of overall relations between the two countries. The dispute has triggered two of three Indo-Pakistan

wars in less than five decades. One study commissioned by the U.S. senate declared Kashmir one of the most destabilising factors in South Asia, where both Pakistan and India are sus-

pected to have the capacity to build ouclear weapons. Mr. Aseff Ali Sunday ruled out the possibility of direct bilateral talks with India even through regional organisations, including the South Asian Associatioo for Regional

Cooperatioo.

Since the end of the cold war, U.S. relations have improved dramatically with India - once the former Soviet Union's largest trading partner outside of the Communist Bloc.

Washington's influence with India, along with its rebounding ties with Pakistan, could offer the United States a solid position as an honest broker between the two countries. Mr. Aseff Ali said.

said its 475 residents feared for their lives wheo aftershocks rattled the area

Sunday morning. "This morning we panicked because of fresb tremors that lasted two or three seconds. The tremors were not severe but we were really scared," he told

Reuters by telephone. "The supply of electricity and water has still not been restored. Local authorities are distributing food, but I am sure we will oeed more supplies," he said.

Authorities said the death toll from the earthquake, measuring 7.0 on the openended Richter Scale, was 74 but one Jakarta newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying 143 had died. The quake flattened more

than 10.000 buildings in villages around Sungai Penuh, a hill town 750 kilometres northwest of Jakarta, when it struck at 1:10 a.m. (1810 GMT Friday).

Saturday night outside in

the cold fearing more tremors.

Fires dotted the area around Sungai Penuh as survivors tried to stay warm during the night. Antara said fear swept

through the area around Suogai Penuh after rumours the dormant volcano Mount Kerinci was erupting and spewing lava. Authorities were swift to quash the reports.

Officials said casualties were likely to rise because the qoake had triggered landslides on the slopes of Sumatra's mountain back-Antara said records

showed Kerinci had been

hit hy large quakes in 1903 and 1943 and geologists believed a 50-year cycle was at work in the region. Resideots said the quake and several aftershocks swept the area, toppling huildings and seeding panic

through the sleeping town

and nearby villages.

Nine-month pregnant Nisawati managed to escape with her eight-yearold son through a window of her collapsed house when the quake struck. "It was terrifying," she said.

Truckloads of military rescue teams began 10 arrive from the nearest major town, Jambi, 24 hours after the quake struck and began distributing food.

# Taiwan to mark low-key National Day

Lee Teng-Hui Sunday said the holding of a military review here instead of a live exercise ahead of Taiwan's National Day this week did not indicate that the island was afraid of China.

"If a war was waged, (our) firing power would be mighty. I can assure you that ... our combat ability is very stroog," Mr. Lee said on state-funded TV from the southern city of Kaohsiung.

Mr. Lee was referring to the Hua Hsing exercise which were held Thursday in place of the usual live exercise ahead of the Nationalist island's 46th National Day — double-10, or Oct. 10 - Tuesday. Members of parliament last week lashed out at authorities here for toning dowo the drill.

Local press said the Hua Hsing (Chinese Glory) Operation on Oct. 5 at the southern naval base of Tsoying was origically intended to be a large-scale drill with live ammunition.

In addition to the toneddowo drill, celebrations on the anniversary itself will also be relatively low-key. eschewing the traditional massive military parade in a bid to stabilise relations with China, analysts here

said. "In considering the reality, authorities here do oot want to further provoke maioland China by holding a more ostentatious parade boasting its military might." Hu Fu, professor of political

science at National Taiwan University, said.

also why the recent "Hua Hsing" exercise had been switched from a live drill to

ernor-general of the Solomon Islands will be the sole foreign state leader at the Oct. 10 National Day rally here.

sentatives from various civic and government sectors have been invited to other celebration activities, abroad.

the face of deteriorating relations between Taiwan

Teng-Hui visited the United States in June.

Beijing, which has viewed

China conducted two rounds of missile tests off the north coast of Taiwan in apparent retaliation.

peodence.

He added that this was a mere military review. Moses Pitakgka, the gov-

Although 250,000 repre-

take part in the rally and point out that, for the time being, Taiwan needs no furonly some 1,000 are from Political analysts here say a more restrained and local celebration is oecessary in

and its loog-time political rival China. Relations between the two sides, never cordial, have furthet soured since Taiwanese Presideot Lee

Taiwan as a renegade province since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949, ioterpreted the trip as an attempt to promote international recognition for Taiwanese independence.

late July and August and suspended high-level, semiofficial talks with Taipei io

should it ever declare inde-

The Foreign Ministry here has refuted local press reports that the current tension betweeo Taiwan and China is the reason for the absence of foreign heads of state at Tnesday's National Day celebration rally.

"Our self-confidence is not built oo the presence of foreign state leaders," Foreign Ministry spokesman Rock Leog said last week. Western diplomats here

ther international promotion following Mr. Lee's landmark visit to the United States which cut official relations with the island in 1979. "That visit, which infuriated China, was indeed a diplomatic breakthrough for Taipei in its relations with

the consequence," a foreign envoy here told AFP. "The trip and its result have drawn international attention to Taiwan's status and provided countries which are friendly to Taiwan a more solid cause to promote Taiwan's membership bid in the United

Washington, regardless of

At the ongoing General Assembly meeting of the United Nations in New York, more than 14 countries have supported the island's hid to rejoin the United Natioos which oust-Beijing has vowed to ed Taipei to admit Beijing seize the island by force in 1971.

Nations," the diplomat said.

### Fresh tremors cause panic in quake-hit Indonesian island SUNGAL PENUH, Indo- Diair village, eight kilome- in Kerinci district, told

caused panic Sunday at the scene of a devastating earthquake on Indonesia's Sumatra Island which killed at least 78 people 24 bours earlier, officials said.

A 41-member medical team, including five specialists, was flown from Jakarta to the remote mountain region around the northwest Sumarran town of Sungai Penuh Sunday morning to treat the more than 2,000 injured.

Officials said several tonnes of rice and large quantities of quick-cooking opodies had been transported to the goake-hit areas, where resideots slept overnight in tents pitched outside what was left of their homes in fear of fur-

ther tremors. Most expected to spend a second night uoder the open

"The residents were afraid to sleep in their houses because they were afraid there might be more earthquakes and might be crushed," local government official Fuad Yosuf told

Reuters. He said two army belicopters were being used in rescue operations while another two were oo stand-

Mr. Fuad said 100 rescuers had been despatched to the area. Irsal Nurdin, 35, of Koto

was caused by sabotage.

matic leader of the center-

right Social Democratic

Party was unearthed at

Lisbon's Paco De Lumiar

Cemetery in the presence of

a judge and removed uoder

police guard, cemetery offi-

cial Manuel Rodrigues said.

The tremor's epicentre was oo land 16 kilometres southeast Suogai Penuh which has a population of more than 40,000 people. Many of the injured spent

We are not brave eoough to enter our houses as there is news there may be aftershocks," Salmi, a resident from Pulau Sangkar village

# Sa Carneiro's body unearthed

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Foreosic experts at Investigators Saturday Lisbon's Pathology Institute exhumed the body of late were to search for traces of Prime Minister Francisco metals indicating the Cessna light aircraft carry-Sa Carneiro in search of evideoce that the 1980 ing Mr. Sa Cameiro to plane crash that killed him northern Oporto might have of political turmoil five been brought down by a years after left-wing army The hody of the charis-

in search of sabotage evidence

crash. Mr. Swedish companion Sou Later reports pointed to Abecassis, his defence negligence. Only recently Minister Adelioo Amaro Da has evidence emerged Costa and five others were pointing to the possibility of killed when their twin- a bomh.

homb and not by technical

engined plane crashed on Dec. 4, 1980, near the village of Camarate just after take off from Lisbon Airport. The crash came at a time

captains overthrew a 48failure as was ruled after the year dictatorship. Initial investigations ruled Sa Carneiro's the crash was an accident

rot-celery juice for breakfast Thursday at the Bluebonnet Cafe. Sounds healthy, all right, but most connoisseurs can only down about an ounce of wbeatgrass juice at a siogle go. Just a gulp of the grassy-tasting drink known for its cleansing and detoxifying powers - can make first-timers dizzy and nauseous. The singer was

**World News** 

incen Elizabeth will ken ic Duchess of York fig. te limelight it she reung oth her estranged husbar Timee Andrew, according the Mail On Sunda ewspaper. British's proave reported the couple the separated in 1992 at i love again and ready p take a new start Be meen Elizabeth Luman the duches will of he allowed to texame wal domes, the Mail sad

It has become clear that te queen has no intention f resembling the strict conitions imposed on the achess when the mamage roke down," the newsp. er said.

#### Madonna to play title role in Evita ONDON (AFP)

inger-actress Madone ill play the tule role in im adaptation of itnisical Evita about the cry wife of tome rgentine leader his omingo Peron, the file. roducers announce; ilining under the duedle f Brutsh film-maker Alz arker is scheduled p ogin Jan 18 and lasti. ceks. The film will a test in Finope, and Some they said anerica. fadonisa will play along de Jonathan Piyce in the de of Julia Hominge eron, and anderas in the adaptione te prinspall wroten S. indress I loyd Wenter at im Rice

#### Michael Bolton is available

(ASHINGTON (AP))intering temale bears's III. American pop 90% lighted Robon is as ale. having called of a manice with actoteolette Shendar and his safe to say their still a for between by liof group to disappear often said in an interven the USA Testay "Rawssoci was to put it. Time all tell," the long-hand ager with the soulin ace said

#### Julio's bad side

AN ANTONO (AP) the littlestic has a bad de. As the smooner greek I several hundred talk aday at a chemi diy ore, he plended with play graphers to door only s right side Please 90. at's my bail side," he sud one ancooperance phographer who snapped am the left The 53-year d was in S.o. Autonio for concert to promote his w all-Spanish CD "la greleta "

#### Boy George takes it like a man

 $_{ALLAS=(AP)}=-\frac{p_{0}}{2}$ corpe took a like a man to British singer ordered ounces of wheatgrass ice and and glass of curbeelete lines for break. a Plansday at the aebennet Cafe Sounds althy, all right, but need mioisseurs can only wir about an ounce of waterass mice at a single Just a gulp of the assy-tasing drink own for its cleansing and toxifying powers - cal ske first-timers dizzy and uscons. The singer was town to promote his new

tobiography. Take It

ke A Mail

SHUTTLE DELAYED AGAIN: Space shuttle Colombia Commander Kenneth Bowersox (right) and Kathryn Thornton (left) lead crewmates (rear left to right) Kent Rominger, Catherine Coleman, Michael Lopez-Alergia, Fred Leslie and Albert Sacco from the Operation and Checkout Building on their way to launch pad 39-B. The Colombia flight was postponed for the fourth time (AFP photo)

### Dhaka opposition leader warns of fierce campaign

DHAKA (R) — Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina told Bangladeshis Sunday to prepare for a stormy campaign to force the government from power as a 32hour strike virtually crippled Dhaka and four other major cities for the second

Vehicles poured back on the rain-drenched streets of Dhaka, the capital of nine million people, after the strike ended at 2 p.m. (0800 GMT), witnesses said.

. They said thousands of police and paramilitary seldiers wrapped in raincoats folded their guns and left for their barracks. "The people have already

expressed their no confidence in the illegal, corrupt and autocratic regime of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia," Mrs. Hasina

said in a statement. "The latest strike proved it more clearly...It was com-

shaky ruling coalition, bat-

tered by the justice minis-

ter's alleged deal with the

opposition, scrambled for

unity Sunday ahead of a

parliamentary debates on

the budget and tighter con-

newspaper report that

Justice Minister Tomoharu

Tazawa struck a hackroom

deal with the main opposi-

tion party to drop embar-

rassing questions in parlia-

ment over his loan from a

In exchange, Mr. Tazawa

promised to oppose a con-

troversial government hill

to tighten control over reli-

gious organisations, legisla-

tion vehemently opposed hy

the Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), the Yomiuri

newspaper alleged Friday.

Mr. Tazawa, who denied

the report, would step down

Monday due to pressure

from his colleagues in the

lay Buddhist organisation.

The move followed a

trols on religions groups.

plete and peaceful. People responded to the strike spontaneously," she said.

Now I arge all of you to make the upcoming 96-bour national strike, due to hegin on Oct. 16, a higger success so that Khaleda Zia would be compelled to accept our demand for elections under a neutral caretaker administration.

"We want to ensure people's right to vote freely and without fear. To achieve that pursue a stormy and more fierce campaign,"-she saidwithout giving more details."

The stoppage began at 6 a.m. (0000 GMT) Saturday in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal. exempted from the strike because of serions floods in the area which have killed scores of people and made millions homeless.

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Liberal Democratic Party Tazawa's alleged secret deal

(LDP), the higgest partner

in Prime Minister Tomtichi

Murayama's three-way

coalition, news reports said.

Hiroshi Miyazawa, the

brother of former Prime

Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

was expected to replace Mr.

Mr. Murayama would not

stop Mr. Tazawa from hand-

ing in his resignation, top

government spokesman

"I feel very unhappy with

what he did," senior LDP

Matsunaga said on an NHK

public televisioo talk show

under attack from Mr.

Murayama's socialists. "It

is natural that he should

resign," Socialist legislator

Tomio Sakagami told the

Coalition officials were par-

ticularly furious over Mr.

Mr. Tazawa also came

Nosaka said

Hikaru

Tazawa, they said.

Koken

Saturday.

lawmaker

Sunday.

show.

used the opposition of "pursuing their selfish goals" at the expense of people's suf-"The strike has hampered

Sunday, like Saturday, is a

working day in Bangladesh,

but most offices, schools

and businesses were closed,

Government leaders acc-

witnesses said.

movement of relief goods from Dhaka to the flooded districts. This is very inhuman," said Abdul Mannan goal, we will not hesitate to. Bhuiyan, acting secretarygeneral of the ruling. Bangladesh Nationalist

Police described the strike Sunday as one of the "most peaceful and umntimidating" since the opposition Rajshahi, the other major began their push to topple city in the north, was Mrs. Khaleda early last

They said several homemade bombs exploded in Dhaka around the end of the strike but no one was hurt.

to take sides with

Shinshinto over the revision

of the religious organisation

hlesome when we are about

to start a parliamentary

debate on the revision of the

religious institution act,"

the LDP's Matsunaga said.

Socialist Sakagami said Mr.

Murayama should sack the

justice minister to secure

yen (\$50 billion) supple-

mentary budget, Mr.

Murayama pledged to press

for the revision of the 44-

year-old religious law dur-

ing the current special par-

liamentary session due to

The government moved to

draft a hill designed to put

tighter controls on the

natioo's more than 200,000

religious groups sonn after

the nerve gas attack on

Tokyo suhways killed 11

end on Nov. 13.

Apart from a five trillion

unity in the government.

"What Tazawa did is trou-

Japan minister set to quit, coalition seeks unity

types...meant for celehration of what the opposition considered their victory in strike," one officer said.

"These were all firecracker-

"Police did not bave to use force against anyone," he told Reuters.

Chittagong, the country's main port, was closed but activities in the other port of Chalna were normal, port officials said.

The opposition wants Mrs. Khaleda, elected in 1991 in what were hilled as Bangladesh's first free polls, to step down immediately and allow elections supervised by a neutral

caretaker administration. They say elections with Mrs. Khaleda in power could not be free at She has refused to step aside.

The next general election is not due till March, 1996.

and made about 5,000 pas-

Shinshinto, backed largely

by members of major

Buddhist lay group Soka

Gakkai, has vowed to hlock

the hill to revise the reli-

"Mindful of possible gen-

eral elections, we will deal

with the issue," senior

Shinshinto official Kazuo

Aichi said during Sunday's

Mr. Murayama must call

A head-on clash between

the coalition and the opposi-

tion over the religious law

could plunge domestic poli-

tics into a fresh turmoil and

delay the long-awaited bnd-

higgest ever submitted in

Japan's parliament, forms

part of a 14.2 trillion-yen

(\$142 hillion) package of

economic measures un-

veiled last month.

The extra budget, the

elections by mid-1997.

talk show.

gious organisation law.

But the opposition

sengers ill on March 20.

# Yeltsin sacks top prosecutor

MOSCOW (R) - President Boris Yeltsin sacked Russia's acting Prosecutor-General Alexei Ilyushenko Sunday after accusations that he was cracking down too hard on the Kremlin leader's critics.

Mr. Yeltsin signed decrees relieving Mr. Ilyushenko of his duties at the top of Russia's judicial system and replacing him temporarily with a deputy, Oleg Gaidanov, Mr. Yeltsin's press office said.

The president considers this a civil act which reflects the moral spirit and sense of political responsibility in the state administration," Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Sergei Medvedev said on Russian television.

Mr. Medvedev said Mr.

Ilyushenko had presented Mr. Yeltsin with a letter of resignation which the president accepted.

The decisioo was likely to be seen as a move to get rid of a supporter with a tarnished reputation ahead of elections in December.

Mr. Ilyushenko won a repntation for being too keen to defend Mr. Yeltsin after starting a series of cases against his critics. He opened legal proceed-

ings against the independent television channel NTV for interviewing Chechen guerrilla Shamil Basayev, NTV has been at odds with govemment information services over its frank coverage of the war with rehel Chechens.

He also opened proceedings against the makers of

the satirical televised puppet show Kukly, a Russian version of Britain's Spitting Image satire, saying its mocking depiction of Russia's political bosses

was insulting. Mr. Yeltsin said in September that time was running out for the prosecutor, after another embarrassing report in the Russian linkęd Ilyushenko's wife to underworld husiness.

"Of course Mr. Ilyushenko denies everything...but after all these hiemishes, I will hardly recommend him again as prosecutor-general," Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference then.

Mr. Yeltsin appointed Mr. Ilyushenko in February 1994 hut a hostile parliament twice refused to confirm him. He was due to present a permanent candidate for the post sonn, but it had become clear Mr. Ilyusbenko would not be it. Mr. Ilyushenko's temporary replacement. Gaidanov, 50, was one of seven deputy prosecutors and was in charge of criminal investigations, the

Rossiiskiye Vesti daily said

Saturday. Mr. Medvedev stressed that Mr. Gaidanov's appointment was temporary and that Mr. Yeltsin would present a new candidate soon, Interfax News

Agency said.
Mr. Yeltsin's top aide Georgy Satarov told Ekho Moskvy radio the president would prohably choose a candidate from outside Moscow for the post.

# Grachev: Chechenya talks should be suspended

GENEVA (R) - Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has said he thought the fragile Chechenya peace process should be suspended after a bomb attack which seriously wounded Russia's military commander in the breakaway

Arriving in Geneva for talks Sunday with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, Gen. Grachev told Russian reporters: "It was the second explosion, a deliberate crime. I personally would interrupt talks."

Three servicemen were killed and 15 other people were injured when a bomh detonated hy remote control blew up as a motorcade carrying Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov went through an underpass in the centre of Chechenya's capital, Grozny, Friday.

Gen. Romanov, who was

said to have suffered wounds to his head, legs and abdomen, was flown back to Moscow for treatment Saturday. It was the assassination attempt against a senior Russian figure

Gen. Grachev, known as a hardliner over the Chechen question, said President Boris Yeltsin and his government were working out their next steps in the crisis. A senior Russian official in Grozny said a state of emer-

Checbenya in two weeks.

gency might be declared. Gen. Grachev said: "We can't make peace with these people. I've warned before that the number of Chechen fighters is increasing. They have the technical ahility and the weapons, tanks and armoured personnel carriers. Bandits should be eliminated."

President Yeltsin was con-

sidering imposing a state of emergency on Grozny after his military commander there was badly injured.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman told TASS the president was weighing a government call for a state of emergency in Grozny following Friday's bomhing, which came dur-ing a delicate stage in peace neogtiations with Chechen rebels.

Spokesman Sergei Medvedev said Mr. Yeltsin saw grounds for such a measure hut he added: "It is necessary to consider all the consequences which could follow declaring a state of emergency."

A curfew is still in force in Grozny and it was not clear what extra measures a state of emergency would involve.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman said Friday that Moscow would bonour deals with the

rebels "despite provocation and terrorist acts.

A spokesman for the Russian command Chechenya, quoted hy TASS, said terrorist acts had increased, with 34 civilians killed in September alone, since a ceasefire was declared.

Shots fired from a grenade launcher slightly damaged the Grozny huilding of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which has been mediating in peace talks, at midday Saturday, TASS said. No one was injured.

TASS also said a Chechen field commander was killed when a house he was staying in west of Grozny was attacked with flame throwers and granade launchers. The report did not say whether the attackers were Russians or Checbens.

## U.S. administration is making 'big noise'

MEXICO CITY (AP) -Cuba's Socialist rulers have found some common ground with conservatives in Washingtoo: they don't think much of President Bill Clinton's moves to increase U.S.-Cuban contacts.

A top Cuban leader Friday night denounced Mr. Clinton's proposals as "a senseless publicity show" and an attempt to undermine Fidel Castro's Socialist system. After all, Mr. Clinton himself said that was the idea.

They bave made a big noise over something that is absolutely nothing," said Ricardo Alarcon, the president of Cuha's parliament and the country's top expert on the United States.

Republicans in Washington denounced the proposals as well, but from a different angle. Senate majority leader Bob Dole said the initiative is evidence of administration weakness toward Cuba.

Sen. Phil Gramm, a Texan who like Sen. Dole is running for the Republican presidential nomination, accused Mr. Clinton of "putting out the welcome mat to Castro instead of tightening the noose around

his aging neck." Mr. Clinton announced Friday be was ending a ban on U.S. news organisations operating from Cuba and said the government would

Cuba hy academic, religious and human rights workers. He said the moves would "encourage its peaceful transition to a free and open

ease restrictions on travel to

society" and he vowed to tighten enforcement of the 33-year-old U.S. embargo of the island "to keep the pressure on." Mr. Clinton also an-

nounced a \$500,000 grant to freedom house, a U.S.based group, for work with non-governmental organisations in Cuba to "promote peaceful change and protect human rights."

Mr. Alarcon said the plan seemed to do little more than allow emergency visits for Cuban exiles who want to visit ill or dying family members on the island.

The rest is to financially aid and train so-called human rights groups with suhversive ends to undermine the revolution from within," be said.

Economist Carmen Diana Deere, a specialist on Cuba

the Latin American Studies officials should have expected a negative Cuban reaction.

The way they presented it, the whole tone is going to be so objectionable to the Cuhans that they can only react by becoming more paranoid." she said. In recent months, Castro

has begun to warn against U.S. attempts to use increased contacts by academics, journalists and others to undermine the Socialist government.

He said in July that hackers of the limited opening want to destroy us from

"These people want to exert their influence through hroad exchanges with diverse sectors that they consider vulnerable, to grant doubtful scholarships and to dazzle us with their hillion-dollar institutions, their technology and their social research centres," be said

worry even some in the Clinton administration. House adviser on Cuban

Richard Nuccio, White affairs, expressed concern at

That reaction has begun to

who is former president of a seminar last week that U.S. support for non-gov-Association, said Clinton ernmental groups in Cuba could make them be seen as "as a possible enemy ... of the Cuban government."

He said it "would be a tragedy for Cuba" if that led Mr. Castro's government to crack down on the private sector, which has grown on Cuba since 1989 as a financial crisis has forced the government to permit small husinesses and independent organisations.

Mr. Alarcon did not flatly reject the idea of letting U.S. news organisation open offices in Cuba, saying the organisations would have to discuss that with the Cuhan government.

In the past, Cuhans have demanded that the United States end a ban on Cuhan news operations in the United States and halt the anti-Castro hroadcasts of Radio and Television Marti. which are funded by the U.S. government.

Administration officials said Friday that they would let Cuban news media operate in the United States, hut only after Cuba had opened its doors to U.S. news organisatioos.

# Gore, Chernomyrdin hold talks at Maine Airport

BANGOR, Maine (R) — in a husiness-like, common-U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin called their private meeting at a Maine Airport Saturday "productive" but declined to give details on what was discussed.

Mr. Gore and Mr. Chemomyrdin told reporters in an impromptu news conference that the two hours of talks covered a broad range of bilateral concerns, including Bosnia, hut focused mostly on issues of

economic cooperation. "It was a very productive very useful dialogue," Mr. Gore said. "We're not going to devulge any of the details of it because this was a discussion about nuts and bolts is designed to increase

sense way."

President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin had requested their number two men meet, and Mr. Gore said Saturday's talks dealt with issues that needed "practical, commonsense attention" prior to the presidents' own meeting later this month in New

An aide to Mr. Gore said prior to Saturday's meeting that it was an opportunity to "monitor" the progress of the U.S.-Russian joint commission on economic and technological cooperation, which the two men co-chair. The commission created hy Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin

countries in space and energy development.

The leaders dismissed reporters' suggestions that it was odd for them to be talking about economic development while the two counties remained at odds on several diplomatic issues such as Bosnia.

"Frankly its hard for me to say that improvements in the life of an average working family in either one of our countries is not important," Mr. Gore said. Saturday's session marked

accommodate

the second Gore-Chernomyrdin meeting in less than four months. Their last meeting was a high-profile conference in Moscow that included the signing of a

cooperation between the \$15 hillion deal to develop oil and gas fields in Russia's far eastern island of Sakhalin.

The vice president and prime minister are expected to meet again in Moscow early next year.

Aides said Saturday's meeting was held in Bangor, a small city in northern Maine, largely to Chemomyrdin's tives. schedule.

The prime minister Friday completed a three-day official visit to Canada. Bangor's airport was also convenient because it is a major refuelling facility for planes headed to Europe.

#### Police chief urges officers to get over Simpson case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Although be still believes O. J. Simpson is guilty of murder, police Chief Willie Williams told his officers they must accept the jury's innocent verdict.

"Mr. Simpson had his day in court. As professionals, we must accept the verdict." Chief Williams said in the speech played dur-ing station roll calls this weekend. It was released Saturday to the news

media.

Chief Williams said the department bad been wrongly battered by Simpson's lawyers, who argued that their client was framed by evidence planted hy one or more detec-

"No evidence has ever heen shown that robberyhomicide west LA and any others ever conspired to plant blood, to plant other evidence, to plant a glove, all the things that the entire Simpson defence

team raised over the past 15 months," he said. "Hang in there," he told the officers. "You've been a great credit to law enforcement, not just in this city, hut in this coun-

The trial of Simpson, a former football star, actor and TV sports commentator, transfixed the nation. Meanwhile, an attorney for victim Ronald Goldman's family said

Oct. 16 for the wrongful death civil lawsuit the family filed against him. 'We're going to question him about every aspect

Simpson has been ordered

to give a deposition on

Mr. Tourtelot şaid Simpson, "must give the deposition and he must appear and testify in court. He has no options.

surrounding the case," attorney Robert Tourtelot said Saturday in an inter-

been filed by the family of Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, who was slain with Goldman on June 12, 1994.

No one answered the telephone Saturday at the office of Simpson attorney Johnnie Cochran.

A poll in the upcoming issue of Newsweek magazine showed that 67 per cent of whites and 52 per cent of blacks believe Simpson's trial increased racial tension without offering any hope of a solution.

Sixty-five per cent of whites and 48 per cent of blacks said they believed race was at least somewhat important in the speedy verdict reached by the jury. Jurors deliberated less than four hours before announcing they found Simpson

innocent. The poll, in the magazine's Oct. 16 issue, also found that 80 per cent of A similar lawsuit has blacks and 50 per cent of

whites questioned think the jury was fair and impartial, although only 32 per cent of the whites agreed with the verdict, compared with 85 per cent of blacks.

The telephone survey hy Princeton Survey Research interviewed 760 adults during Oct. 4-6. The margin of error for questions based on the total sample is plus or minus four percentage points.

Participants in the case, meanwhile, continue to explore cash opportunities. Simpson juror Brenda Moran is writing a book, which will be released in the near future, her attorney, Robert Ball, said Friday on CNN's Larry King Live.

Three other jurors have retained attorney Steve Lerman, who represented police beating victim Rodney King, in a search for commercial deals.





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#### Media in the balance

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS is one of the main pillars of pluralistic democracy and must be jealously guarded. This means that constraints on the exercise of this freedom must he applied in the most judicions manner so as not to jeopardise the democratic process and its underpinnings. As we look around and learn from well-established democracies we observe that seldom, if at all, do news reporters or columnists get thrown into jail for writing or publishing even false information. Laws on defamation and libel are the usual legal tools to hring to justice people who abuse their freedom to disseminate news, views and analysis. These laws serve as the main channel for would-be victims who can seek reparation or compensation from journalists or writers found guilty in a court

Admittedly there are many countries with fledgling democracies which apply more restrictive rules on the exercise of freedom of the press for fear that false or secret information, especially on matters that affect or relate to national security and stability, could undermine their systems. In this context it is understandable that the priorities of states, which are continuously threatened by external or internal forces, are quite different from those which are more endowed with stability and security. Likewise there might be a certain need to curtail news reports, which can inflame public opinion with malice or distort hasic policies with a deliberate intent to cause harm to the country. Memhers of the mass media in such countries carry a heavier burden than their counterparts and colleagues in other nations hecause they must always he careful, even conservative, in handling what might be considered "sensitive" news. Under such circumstances the onus of proof of innoceuce tends to rest with journalists themselves, putting them, in the process, in a disadvantageous posi-

In some countries, including ours, the public prosecutor may be vested with the right to detain a journalist if there is a prime facie case against him or her for publishing reports that are malicious, grossly wrong or harmful to state security and stahility. Under Jordanian law, for example, such violations are deemed serious crimes that warrant the most severe treatment. This right, however, can still be exercised with discretion with each situation examined on its own merits. When there is no risk that the accused would try to escape trial or abuse his freedom to move around, detention can and should be avoided. When in doubt, bail may be posted by the accused especially when there are sufficient safeguards and reasonable grounds to believe that he would not jump his bail.

Jordan, in any case, also has to reckon with its international treaty ohligations and see where our current laws and practices may run counter to them. It is always prudent to double check with our legal experts on how we may interpret our legislation without running the risk of contravening treaties to which we are party. This is where the discretion of our judicial authorities can and must be exercised in a manner consistent with our international ohligations.

We are naturally against detaining members of the media for violating articles of the press and publications and other laws unless a court of law has examined the complaint against them and made a determination on their guilt. It is true that journalists are not above the law, nor should they be treated as a class different from others, nor must they be regarded as a distinguished group. But let us remember that in a country aspiring to be democratic a violation of the laws and freedoms of the press is not considered among the most serious criminal violations that would warrant detention without hail. Secondly, normative punishment under the various human rights treaties for those who violate legislations on freedom of the press is mainly monetary which the convicted person would have to pay as a form of reparation. Thirdly, there is not a single country in need of making democracy a way of life for itself that can afford to incur the wrath of, or send the wrong signal to, democratic forces which are keen to see our experience work.

On the other hand, the journalists themselves have to ahide hy the law of the land, no matter how restrictive it is, and be governed by the ethics of the profession. Irreparable damage can ensue at times, to both the journalists themselves and the people and the cause they are supposed to serve, when the responsibility to be fair, accurate and objective is shirked by reporters and editors.

Balance is essential, and we have to strive to achieve it. But while it will take us some time to reach ... at goal, we have to know that there is but one way to our destination. It is only through observing democratic rules and respecting the law that we can succeed - together.

### Linnan Rights Cile

By Dr. Waleed M. Sadi

# 'Let's target land mines and blinding laser weapons'

The Review Conference of the 1980 U.N. Weapons Convention is in its third and final week and bas yet to receive appropriate interest or concern from the Arab World. The on-going conference, held in Vienna, is deliberating the prohibition or restriction of the use of certain conventional weapons deemed excessively injurious or as having indiscriminate effects, such as land mines and blinding laser guns. The magnitude of the crisis for the Middle East may be best appreciated through the shocking revelation that out of the 100 million anti-personnel mines littering the globe, about 30 million are scattered on our owo soil,

in our own backyards.

Regarding hlinding military laser guns, their development and deployment is also on the increase worldwide, including, of course, throughoot the Middle East where regional wars and internal armed conflict have been abun-

On a global level, the size of the land mine challenge is reflected most in the appalling number of anti-personnel mines the world has manufactured over the past quartercentury alone. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) - the guardian of all Geneva Conventions and the prime promoter of international humanitarian law even before WW1 -- estimates that 250 million land mines, including 200 million anti-personnel mines, have been manufactured in the last 25 years, by oo less than 50

Peculiar to this type of conventional weapon is its inherent nature of taking a beavy toll on buman life, mostly civilian, which continues even after the cessation of hostilities. This is because mines lie planted in areas accessihle to civilians, such as areas for cultivation and economic development. Mines have proven almost impossible to defuse or detect, and not only hy people like you or me, but also by military personnel who planted them in the first place. No wonder about 800 mostly civilian lives are claimed every month hy land mines. Just to add insult to

injury, the international community still produces annually about 10 million of these terrible weapons.

Another reason for the continued carnage is attributed to the high price of mine-clearing, estimated hy some experts to cost \$300-500 per mine, while manufacturing such mines is a snip at about \$20 each. We can only begin to imagine this catastrophic side of the equation when developing countries are forced, through sheer economic constraints, to leave land mines, buried during regional or domestic armed conflicts, in unmarked places to be detected only when a child, woman or farmer step oo one. triggering a hloody explosion.

Yet the international community is still reluctant to take affirmative action against such weapons even at this late hour. To date, there are international humanitarian principles calling for clear distinction between civilians and combatants in armed conflict. In addition there are specific treaties such as the 1980 UN Weapons Convection and its Protocol II that purports to control the use of mines, boohy-traps and similar devices. But the shortcomings of existing customary and international laws are proven by the failure to cootain the problem and reverse its tide. Awareoess and recognition are on the increase that the current regime governing the use of such weapons is simply not working and all the while more people are losing their lives or limbs because legislation is neither sufficient nor commensurate with the size and dimension of

Besides, not many states have signed and ratified the modest 1980 Convention. Only 50 governments chose to become parties to the 1980 convention, demonstrating the indifference of so many countries, including Arab and developing countries which suffer the most from land mines in both human and economic terms. The convening of the Review Conference of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention also provides an occasion to invite Jordan to adhere to it, as I am sure it is sheer oversight on our part

not to have become party to it until now.

And since the limited Convention is only applicable to "international" armed conflicts, the developing countries including of course the Arah World will continue to suffer because they provide the main theatre for internal armed

conflicts that are bloody and vicious. Unfortunately, the recommendation of the Group of Experts assembled for the purpose of proposing more forceful measures against mines falls short of the desired objective because it adopts the view that additional restrictions and safeguards would do the necessary joh for humanity. This contrasts with the view of the ICRC and an increasing number of governments that consider there is but one solution to the endemic carnage and slaughter of people: the total prohibitioo of the manufacture of land mines, as opposed to the mere introduction of cosmetic changes to existing international humanitarian law.

Perhaps it is too late to change the course of the Review Conference on this point. But it is never too late to start lohbying for a more humane and enlightened posture that insists on a complete han on the use and manufacture of land mines as a real and effective panacea to the current carnage of innoceot people.

Fortunately though, the Group of Experts did recommend the total prohibition of the use and manufacture of hlinding laser weapoos. This is a great and timely success, in view of the growing technology of hlinding laser guns and their availability not only to states across the board. but also to factions or groups. In the meantime. Israel is known to have a crash military programme to develop this kind of weapon. No doubt other Middle Eastern states would respond likewise, sooner rather than later, unless the problem is nipped in the bud in this part of the world.

We have every hope that the Review Conference will not fail bumanity at least in this area. Meanwhile the vigil against the use and manufacture of land mines must continue unabated until we anain our ultimate objective.

#### Why Russia opposes NATO expansion

By G. H. Jansen

ONE ELEMENT noticeably absent from Russia's campaign against the eastward expansion of NATO is that Moscow has not, so far. given reasons for its opposition. But a reason given to Indian correspondents by a Russian official in 1961, soon after the Belgrade non-aligned summit conference, may perhaps explain why at present Russia, though firmly opposed to the external expansion of NATO, does not say why.

The half-dozen Indian correspondents in Belgrade for the summit in September "61 were very pleasantly surprised when they were told that they were invited by the Soviet Union to accompany the Indian prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to Moscow for talks between Nehru and Soviet Primier Nikita Krushchev.

In Moscow the visit became more interesting for the journalists because the Russian officer accompanying the group was the press attaché at the Soviet embassy in New Delhi and already knew some of the journalists.

The single most enjoyable item on the usual dull official ogramme of speeches and visits to Soviet show-pieces was a performance at the Bolshoi theatre of the well-known ballet "Romeo and Julier" and not, this time, danced to the all-too-well known music of Tchaikovsky, but to a newer composition by the Russian composer Prokovief. And a splendid performance it was during which the prime minister, though a well known lover of Western classical music, seemed notably silent and withdrawn.

After we returned from the Bolsboi performance to the Sovietskya Hotel, we journalists and the Russian officer settled down to discuss the state of the world over the inevitable bottle of vodka. There was one question that especially interested this journalist and a news agency colleague. Whether it was the lateness of the bour or the affect of the vodka, the officer "opened up" and spoke frankly. And so when we pestered him with this question, "Why is Rnssia, a Great Power, stronger than ever after its victory in World War II, so afraid of a wrecked and divided Germany that it would do everything it could to stop Germany being put back on its feet hy the West?"

The Russian said, "We don't usually discuss this, but I will tell you why. The broad road we took this evening from this hotel straight into Red Square and the Bolshoi, had hnge holes in it at the end of the war. Not unrepaired pot

holes and not bomb craters, but shell boles made by German artillery from the outskirts of the city. That was proof of how far the Germans reached. And that German army came here all the way from the Rhine (a pardonable exaggeration - the Elbe would have been more accurate) and the German soldiers fought their way here, all the way across Poland and more than half of European Russia, And it took a Russian winter and, of course, the Red Army to stop them just in time.

"The Germans are a terrible and a formidable people, They can never be trusted and so must be kept weak by being divided and disarmed."

Lrecall those minatory words now that Germany is reunited and rearmed and is half-in and half-out of NATO - the Russian mightmare has come true.

Germany is by far the strongest state in the Western European Union and NATO (except for the U.S.), so for a suspicious, nationalist Russia, no longer a really great power, NATO is quite simply Germany.

Thus, the seemingly innocent eastwards expansion of NATO and the attempts by the former Soviet satellites and

#### 'For a suspicious nationalist Russia, no longer a great power, NATO is quite simply Germany'

republics, especially Poland and the three Baltic states and even Belarus, to connect up with NATO are, for Russians, all preindes to a possible repetition of Napoleon and Hitler knocking on the doors of Moscow.

The words of the Russian officer were an impressive presentation of the Russian position. They made sense and they still do. The Western advocates of NATO's eastward expansion, which the Russians have most recently called "a challenge," will have to overcome a deepseated Russian



complex with roots dating back almost two centuries, to

It was only many years later that we discovered wby on that September evening in 1961 Nehru bad seemed so withdrawn from the performance at the Bolsboi. He bad gone to Moscow on bis own initiative, not on a Russian invitation, later extended pro forma, to talk to Krushchev and ask him, since Russia was an ally of China in the Moscow-Beijing axis, to urge restraint on the Chinese who were pushing south against the Sino-Indian frontier.

And that day Krusbchev bad told the Indian prime minis-ter that the Moscow-Beijing axis was no more, because the Russian and Chinese communist parties had fundamental. ideological differences. The Chinese had told the Russians, who were by then anti-Stalinist, that they, the Chinese, would continue along the Stalinist path, which they still do.

Therefore, Moscow bad no restraining influence on Beijing and India and China were on their own in an eye-hall to eve-ball confrontation.

Among other things this meant that Nehru bad to drop his sentimental "India-China brothers" policy which, unfortunately, he did not do quickly enough and the two countries soon went to war.

,If the Russians keep silent on wby they do not want a German-dominated NATO on their western borders it is because they can hardly admit that their policy today is moved by old, atavistic fears, which are no longer realistic.

# **LETTERS**

#### Where is the comradery

To the Editor:

AS A FORMER journalist, my displeasure with a system that allows the detention of a journalist for his writings before a trial declares him guilty is only superseded by my displeasure with a journalistic community that allows one of its own to be jailed without sounding a peep

Why are Jordanian journalists so preoccupied with arguing whether Amman's Al-Hayat correspondent, Mr. Salameb Nematt, was right or wrong in publishing his article on a government investigation of alleged hribe-taking by Jordanian journalists and officials? That is a matter for the courts to decide. What they shoold be voicing instead is opposition to this detention of their colleague.

I find it embarrassing that international organisations such as the Paris-based Reporters Without Frontiers are questioning the human rights and press freedom implications of Mr. Nematt's detention, while his own colleagues, who surely have much more at stake, are either attacking bim in the local press or, at best, keeping silent on the

Jordanian journalists often complain about the restrictive nature of the 1993 Press and Publication Law. But wby do these people expect the government to protect and expand their rights when they themselves are too timid to take a stand and rally around a colleague whose situation they may very likely face one day?

Readers may wooder why I am writing this letter anonymously. It is not due to fear of voicing a seemingly unpopular opinion, bur rather because my present employment does not allow me the freedom to express personal opinions in the press. Still, my frustration at the sad state of journalism in Jordan is such that I find writing an unsigned letter slightly better than not writing one at all.

Name withheld upon request

#### The press we want

AS a concerned Jordanian, I was interested to see that a journalist for a London-based Arabic newspaper had been arrested and jailed peoding trial in connection with an allegedly defamatory article he had written. I am not going to discuss this particular case as it is now before the courts, nor shall I repeat the allegations made in the article in question because I do not want to give them further

question because I do not want to give them further publicity. Nevertheless there is a much wider, general issue at stake which needs to be urgently debated in Jordan if we are to successfully fulfill the high aims for our country set by His Majesty King Hussein.

It is my firm belief that the Press and Publications Law allows the state prosecutor to put on trial any journalist for what he or she may have writteo, in a manner that contradicts all international norms of respect for freedom of the press. In a democracy it is the role and responsibility of the press. In a democracy it is the role and responsibility of the press to challenge falsehoods and seek out the truth. Such battles shoold be fought through public debate not through law courts. Of course any time an individual is falsely accused of something, he or she has the right to bring a libel action against the perpetrator and seek damages. But do we really need the prosecutor to hring a court case on behalf of the entire country? By doing so. doesn't he simply attract attention and importance to the very allegations that are to be challenged? Surely it makes more sense to allow the press to do its joh and dehunk any claims that insult the intelligence and honour of the country. Ultimately we must have faith that ordinary Jordanians are perfectly capable of judging the issues before them. Yet they are hampered from using that judgement if the press is constrained by regulations and controls that put journalists in fear of imprisonment merely for doing their jobs. People cannot exercise responsible choices, as democracy requires them to do, if they are not exposed to a lively and honest political debate. In other words there simply can be no democracy without a free and

vigonrous press.

If the standards of our Press and Publications Law were

applied in a respected and ancient democracy such as Britain, then half of that country's population might be paying fines or serving prison sentences and world-class oewspapers such as The Times. The Guardian or The Economist would have long ago closed down or simply became colourless vehicles for petty gossip and marriage anonuncements. Is that the kind of country we want Jordan to be? Is that the kind of press we want to have?

I am sure that many journalists and politicians have been offended by allegations made against them in the past. But isn't it their joh to use their respected position in society to debate and question all issues that affect them and society at large? I doubt that there are many professional journalists in Jordan who feel they need the state to protect them against every foreign writer with an axe to grind, but if any journalist is incapable of defending him or herself on the pages of a newspaper then perhaps he or she should seek a different vocation. Finally, I think it is clear for all to see that continued over-involvement of the state in regulating the press is delaying the process of democratisa-tion championed by His Majesty King Hussein. The mere possibility of prosecution has surely dissuaded many from openly expressing their views on even some rather innocuous subjects.

Finally let me say that I believe in Jordan and I believe that His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours have lifted our country to a position of international respect far outweighing our size and resources. It is our duty, therefore, to our King and country to he part of a responsible, constructive and equal political dehate without having to look over our shoulders. Restraints on the freedom of the press severely damage Jordan's image in the world. They risk casting a shadow over His Majesty's great achievements on the national and the world stage. If we allow that to happen then we will all be worse off. It is time to reexamine the Press and Publications Law in the name of democracy, of peace and the farsighted vision of Jordan set out by His Majesty King Hussein.

> 1030 N. Winchester Avenue, 2RB Chicago, IL 60622

Y. OCTOBER 9, 1985

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One is not envisaging that elnsive beast, the daily paper which would have to the Labour Party the same intimate relationship as the Telegraph has to the Tories. One is talking about a political and cultural weekly that would have to new Labour the same relationship as .... as the New Statesman had to old Labour. In fact, one is talking about the New

Recently there was a deal of talk in the press about an attempt by Tony Blair's kitchen cabinet to get control of the morihund New Statesman, kick ont its editor and replace him with a Blaircontrolled stooge. Chief culprit in this story was a PR 'Statesman' staggers from crisis to crisis

While political magazines of the right thrive, why is the voice of the left so often in turmoil?

man called Brian Basbam, who was said to be in the Blair loop. But Mr. Basbam tells me this is complete nonsense. He bas only met Mr. Blair once in his lifetime, and while he does indeed know several Labour figures (the Kinnocks, for

instance) he is no way linked

to any Blairite plot. I also phoned the effective owner of the New Statesman. Philip Jeffrey, and asked him whether be thought Mr. Basbam was a Blairite Trojan horse, intent on ensuring a loyal, stooge-like magazine. Mr. Jeffrey said, in the course of a quite long conversation, that he thought Mr. Blair had no interest in the New Statesman at all; be said that be would like to improve the Statesman to such an extent that Mr. Blair would sit up

and take notice of it. He also

said that if Mr. Blair had wanted a Trojan horse on the New Statesman, then the obvious candidate would be himself, Mr Jeffrey (a loyal member of Amersham Labour Party), but be had bad no approaches of any kind from the Blair camp. In fact, he had had precious little connection at all with the magazine either.

So this idea that Steve Platt, the magazine's editor, was being forced to resign as part of a general attempt to stifle opposition to new Labour appears to emanate from Mr. Platt's circle. It appears to be a spin -- a genuine example of a spin - from spin doctors as yet unidentified.

Mr. Platt was indeed being asked to resign, had in fact agreed to resign, and the finance committee of the magazine met last Tuesday

to draft a press release to say that he had resigned. The reason for this resignation was that a refinancing scheme was being developed, and that if the magazine was to be refinanced the new investors would expect there to be a new editor. They would expect someone wbo, the phrase goes, was

Yesterday, there was to have been a press conference at Brighton, announcing the new deal for the poor old Staggers and Naggers. Instead Mr. Platt, baving been persuaded, or having persnaded himself, that be was being hounded by unsavoury elements from Islington, decided not to resign. Mr. Jeffrey learnt that the staff was about to pass a vote of no confidence in the board and decided to demand the resignation of

better box office.

the entire board. Christopher Price, the chairman. resigned, hut Mr. Basham has yet to do so. The other members have apparently refused to go. But, of course, the refinancing deal appears for the moment to be fin-

I say "for the moment" because Mr. Jeffrey, who, as I reported above, was sweetness itself to me and in all his references to Mr. Blair, gave this paper's correspondent a rather different impression last Friday saying: "What has happened today is not good news for Tony Blair." Apparently Mr. Jeffrey is subject to moodswings. I got his sweetest side. He paid tribute to the enormous effort and sacrifices made by the board members wbom he had just instructed to resign.

The situation, as far as 1

haps he will come up with

something this time. Perhaps

can see, is that Mr. Jeffrey, didates who made proposals as is his right, has appointed within the fairly cautious old himself chairman of the parameters were turned board, and brought in the down in favour of an expansionist scheme intended to accountant Peter Jones to look at the books and to turn the Statesman into a decide whether or not to news magazine on the lines of, say, Der Spiegel. The close the magazine down. scheme was batty, went off at half-cock and the capital Mr. Jones bas actually been looking at these books, to the best of my knowledge, of was soon used up. the past two decades. Per-In 1990 the magazine

faced bankruptcy but was

saved in part by the invest-ments made by two staff not. Meanwhile, be has the defiantly unresigned former members. In one week, in members of the board to January 1992, the prime minister and his caterer sued The boards of the New the magazine and its distrib-Statesman have a not very utors for libel, the distribuhappy history. In 1978, when I was one of the canditors settled their side and under the terms of their condates for editorship, the tract passed on to the magapaper owned its building in zine the bill for 250,000 ster-Lincoln's Inn Fields, had money in the bank and ling pounds about which it could do nothing. ( The made, as a company, an operating profit. All the canmagazine's own part in the legal action was settled on

much more modest terms.) When it started going under again in 1993, there was interest from the quarter of one Derek Coomhs, a former Tory MP, who is now the higgest single sbareholder in Prospect, the new polilical magazine that was launched last week. The board split between supporters of Mr. Coombs, who seemed OK except for baying a Tory, and Mr. Jeffrey, who was eccentric hut was at least Labour. Mr. Jeffrey was chosen by one vote, and has since (with his wife) put the best part of 600,000 pounds into the company. He owns 49 per cent, Mr. Platt owns 1.5 per cent. Hence the block vote.

If Mr. Jeffrey intends to put the paper in the hands of the receivers, he may well thereby end up delivering it into the bands of his old rival for ownership, Mr. Coombs. If Mr. Platt digs in, in the name of resistance against Stalino-Blairite stifling of free speech, he may find his position overrun by an old Tory. Could someone make either of these fine individuals see sense?

The above article is reprinted from The Indepen-

#### Calls for parliament reforms

(Continued from page 12)

cabinet member and not on the cabinet as a whole, Jan Westenbroek, deputy secretary general of the group of the European Peo-ples Party at the European Parliament, said democracy

was essential for stability and

security for the country and its neighbours as well. "King Hussein is delegating part of his responsibilities and it is a question of time and will on both sides for democracy to flourish," he

"Parliament has to show it is responsible and gradually, Jordan will rise to the level of European countries," he

Discussions continue today with a special emphasis on the prospects of developing the Jordanian Parliament's performance. The there-day seminar was organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in cooperation with Al Urdan Al Jadid Research

#### Right media approach urged

(Continued from page 12)

ings, which will be covered by approximately 500 journal

At least 250 to 300 Jordaschemes, he said.

He said that at least 400

nian delegates will take part in the conference, which will focus attention on the economic climate and investments in local and regional

Urging the media to work in unison with the official information services to relay ments in the gathering.

500 personalities and 900 private sector participants are Kingdom, Mr. Abul Ragheb expected to attend the meet \_\_ said that the Ministry of fnformation had created a main press office at the Sports City complete with all means of communication to extend full coverage of the event directly from the centre.

> foreign journalists will cover the conferences during which press conferences and briefings will be held to keep the media posted about develop-

#### European giants expected

(Continued from page 12)

Superhighway and telecommunications and tour-

will be said during the official sessions will be what happens away from the spotlights, the exchange of business cards and the chats in the lobbies of the hotels" Mrs. Ashqar said.

"Though business is not something one can make 'on the spot,' but something that takes a long pro-cess, the interest of the French Businessmen Association and of European companies in the Amman summit is genuine." Mr. Ponsot said.

"More than investors and finance, we think the Jordanian private sector is looking for 'technical partners,' someone to have the technology and the knowhow," Ms. Ashqar said.

Romualdo Bettini, the Italian ambassador to Jordan told the Jordan Times: The major achievement of the Amman forum is already under everybody's eyes: It is the great mobiisation of the Jordanian industries, the associations. the government. Parliament and the internal and foreign public opinion in the past months.

Mr. Bettini added that the new Investment Law. which stipulates equal treatment for foreign and

domestic investments, and the efforts exerted by Parliament and the government to open the economy to trade are going to give Jordan "the economic development that is essential

to support peace." Dr. Touqan also pointed that the new Investment Law and Jordan's application for membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) were necessary steps ahead of the MENA summit.

Reflecting the climate of

great expectations in Italy of the summit on a political, economic and public opinion level, will be the Italian government deleganon which will be headed by Susanna Agnelli, minister of foreign affairs, and sister of Giovanni Angelli. president of Ferrari, Fiat and Lancia.

The official EU delegation to the MENA economic summit will be headed by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, accompanied by his Minister of Foreign Affairs Gavier Solana. The EU is also a member of the summit's steering committee, together with the "four core" parties (Egypt. Israei, Jordan and Palestine), and Japan, Morocco, Russia. Tunisia and the

# The revolution begins, at last

The following leader is reprinted from Sept. 30 issue of the Economist.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL would be amazed. His little invention of 1876 has already changed beyond all imagining the social and economic lives of those who use it. The telephone has brought companionship, employment and information to millions. It is now poised to do far more, Over the next few years, the price of making a long-distance or international call in and between some countries will fall to the point where it costs little more to telephone from Hollywood to Glasgow than to nearby Beverley Hills. At the same time, telephone companies will begin to switch the basis of charging their customers from the length of . telephone" conversations will cost nothing extra, whatever their duration or distance. As a result, one of the most important limits imposed by geography on human activities will eventually vanish. The demise of distance as the key to the

cost of communicating may well prove the most significant economic force shaping the next half century. This has been predicted before; the difference now is that it is actually starting to happen. Revolutionary as the change in pricing will be, its impact will be magnified by two other earth-moving changes. One is a huge increase in the capacity and the portability of the telephone. New investments, by telephone and cable companies, are already expanding handwidth the capacity to transmit information. You want to play video games with your friend

across the country? You want to organise a press conference to allow journalists a continent away to question the chairman of AT&T? Those possibilities exist for the few. Soon, they and thousands of other ingenious concepts will be here for the many. Telephones have also acquired another, even more useful characteristic; mobility, The machine that sits on a table in the hall and rings just as you get into the shower is being overtaken by a ubiquitously portable gadget that can always reach its owner at one number, anywbere.

The second earth-mover will be the wiring of the world. Today, 5.6 hillion people make do with a mere 600m telephones. In the developing world, telephone "density" is a mere one-tenth that of the rich world. But developing countries are forging ahead with time for which they talk to a flat subscript privatisation. More than a dozen have done tion. Within a decade or two most ordinary was in the past couple of years, with more so in the past couple of years, with more planned in Ghana and Guinea, Panama and Poland, and other yet more disparate countries. Some are allowing cellular-telephone operators to step in to fill the gaps in their markets that fixed-wire networks cannot plug fast enough. China alone has hopes of adding the equivalent of an entire Baby

> For the big telephone operators, fearful of a collapse in the cost of international calls their most profitable business — the prospect of new markets is a relief. But for their customers, the future is joyously unpredictable. New technologies go through many refinements before their potential is fully exploited. The telephone is hardly new, but the novelty lies in the effect such costless communication has on two other commonplace machines. As the transmission of infor

mation is increasingly digitised, the boundaries between the telephone, the television and the computer are hlurring. Put the three together and all sorts of unpredictable new products and services start to evolve from the fun of television, the hrain and memory of the computer, and the two-or-more-way buman contact of the telephone.

Still trying to connect you

How fast this new world arrives will depend on governments. Some seem determined to fight against opening their markets to foreign investment and allowing international telephone services to become as tradable as telephones themselves. While they struggle against the inevitable, other countries will benefit. The key change, in the words of Al Gore, America's vice-president, will be that "Time zones, not cost, will become the biggest barrier to keeping in touch." It will become possible to site any screen-based activity anywhere; and to tap into all sorts of information and advice from crop prices to university courses to medical belp — from anywhere in the world.

As a result, decisions about location will be ansformed and regional policy will at become meaningful. Many services will become internationally tradable - and indeed easier to ship from one country to another than goods are today. Countries thousands of miles apart will be able to offer services, from providing an insurance quote to monitoring a security camera, that have up to now required proximity.

The further a country or a town is from the main centres of economic activity, the more it will gain as a result. In developing coun-

tries, telephone tariffs are currently highest and international charges most outrageously adrift from costs. They, and the poorest, most distant regions of the rich countries, will gain most of all when this changes. They will be able to keep skilled and educated workers. who might otherwise bave migrated to where the jobs paid best. But some rich-world white-collar workers, who up to now have thought themselves insulated from the competitive pressures that have affected manufacturing, will find their johs and wages at

Proximity will still have some value: Hollywood's breakfasting and the City of London's lunching will never be replicated over a wire. But cities, which have so dominated development for the past two centuries, will lose some of their clont: no longer will it necessarily be the case, as it is now, that their productivity (and therefore their wealth) is vastly greater than that of the surrounding countryside. In poor countries, whose cities threaten to be the behemoths of the next century, telecommunications will make it possible to provide in rural areas many of the services and jobs, and much of the access to information and entertainment, which have en available only by moving to the bright lights.

For governments and big companies, the telecoms revolution will be unsettling. because it will put more power into the homes and on to the desks of ordinary people. Voters and customers alike will find it easier to make comparisons, acquire information, hy-pass gatekeepers, cross horders. The telephone is a seditious little instrument; but it will create a better-informed, more prosperous life for millions of people.

#### Women refuse to leave jail

(Continued from page I)

(Continued from page I)

Blanche bombing, a state- quers France.'

big gaps between the two April. following the Israeli sides," said a Palestinian official, Major General Ziad Al Atrash. "What we are looking for is an overall redeployment timetable."

Mr. Peres said the Israeli army would pull out of four villages in the West Bank within 20 days. The operation was to start in Salfit, in the Nablus area, as early as Tuesday, a military spokesman

Israel has promised to free 2,300 of the prisoners in three stages. The first stage was supposed to be "on the signing" of the agreement, and the second prior to Palestinian general elections. Elections are expected to be held either in January or Bomb explodes at rail track

ment signed by Algeria's

Armed Islamic Group (GIA)

claiming responsibility for

bomb attacks against French interests since 1994 was faxed

to a western news agency in

In the typed statement,

signed by Abu Abdul Rah-

man Amin, the GIA "Emir,"

the group vowed to continue

its strikes in revenge for

Paris' backing of the Algerian

government "until Islam con-

ideological Jewish settlers living in the middle of the

troop withdrawal and deploy-

ment of Palestinian police.

Israeli troops are supposed to

be out of six cities in the West

Bank by the end of the year.

and out of most of the

seventh — Hebron — in March. The situation in Heb-

ron is complicated by the

presence of 450 fiercely

town's 120,000 Palestinian re-The third stage of a prisoner release is supposed to take place during negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories, which are supposed to begin by next May.

The authenticity of the statement, dated Sept. 23,

The group said it would

continue the attacks not only

to punish France for interfer-

ing in Algeria's domestic affairs but also because Presi-

dent Jacques Chirac had

ignored its call to convert to

Islam. A 31/2-year-old in-

surgency in Algeria has left

more than 30,000 people

could not be confirmed.

#### Saddam elected president of Qatari tribe

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has been elected leader of a tribe in Qatar, official Iraqi newspapers said here on Sunday. The 60,000 members of the Abidli tribe decided to elect him their president after hearing that he was seeking to have his mandate as Iraqi leader renewed in a referendum next Sunday. "After hearing about the referendum, we have elected you (president) of the Al Abidli tribe. The 60,000 members of the tribe are at your command," the tribal chief wrote in a message to President Saddam. Iraq announced in September that President Saddam, 58, who bas ruled the country since 1979, was seeking to have his mandate renewed for another seven years in a referendum.

#### Arafat honours 84,000 Egyptian war victims

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on 1948. In an interview with the Egyptian news agency MENA published by newspapers here on Sunday, Mr. defend Palestine." Egyptian forces were involved in the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973.

CAIRO (AFP) - The U.S. embassy in Cairo has placed surveillance cameras on streets in the Egyptian capital, fearing militant attacks after the conviction of Sheikh Oma'r Abdul Rahman, a government newspaper said Sunday. The Egyptian government weekly Ruse Al Yousef said the U.S. embassy had installed video cameras and sophisti-

**NEWS IN BRIEF** cated surveillance equipment at Tahrir Square and on streets leading to the embassy, located in the heart of Cairo. The paper said they were installed to "detect all suspicious movements." No official could be reached at the embassy, which is closed on Sunday, to confirm the report. The security measures were taken for fear of retaliatory attacks by fundamentalist groups after the conviction last week in New York of the spiritual leader of the armed

#### Egyptian group, Gamaa Islamiyah, the paper said. Militiaman wounded in South Lebanon bomb

MARJAYOUN (AP) - A suspected guerrilla roadside bomb wounded a pro-Israeli militiaman in South Lebanon Sunday, security sources said. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israeli forces and their allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen shelled suspected guerrilla hideouts in the area in retaliation. They said the bomb exploded as an SLA patrol drove near the village of Tallousa in the central sector of an Israeli-occupied border zone. No one claimed responsibility for the attack and there was no word from Israel on the incident.

#### Iran police arrest robbers of diplomats' houses

TEHRAN (R) - Iranian police have arrested three armed robbers of Tehran houses used by foreign diplomats, a police chief was quoted on Sunday as saying. "One of the armed robbers, Ali Abed, has confessed to 14 cases of robbery at residences of foreign diplomats," Brigadier Reza Abulfathi, Tehran's chief of police, was quoted as saying by the Akhbar daily newspaper. So far police have arrested three robbers and found 50 million rials (\$16,700 at official exchange rate) worth of gold and audio-visual equipment, he said. Efforts are continuing to capture "a number of other robbers collaborating with these three." Abed's crimes included robbing the residence of the Malaysian embassy's first secretary earlier this year and the home of the Japanese embassy's second secretary in 1993. Brig. Abulfathi said.

#### Lawyer sues Egyptian film about lawyers

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian film stars Yosra and Gamil Ratib appeared in a Cairo court as interested spectators on Sunday in the first hearing of a lawyer's suit against the Adel Imam film "Birds of Darkness." Mahmoud Riyad is suing producer Wahid Hamed and director Sharif Arafa for insulting the legal profession in the film, which shows corruption among lawyers and government officials. Seventy-five lawyers turned up at court in solidarity with the producer. One of them, Mohammad Sabri of the Federation of Arab Lawyers, said the aim of the film was to encourage reform in the profession and in government. Yosra and Ratib have roles in the film but top actor Adel Imam, who plays an opportunistic lawyer, did not show up.

#### Bosnia ceasefire still on track

(Continued from page I)

whether Mr. Perry had submitted any new plans on Russian troops joining the force.

Yes, they introduced (them). Mr. Grachev replied as he sat for a second session of talks. "It's going to be a tough task."

NATO is planning to pour up to 60,000 troops into Bosnia once an accord is signed. The United States is expected to provide the backbone of the force.

Both Russia and NATO want Moscow to send troops as well. But Russia will not place its soldiers under NATO command and Western powers say they will not accept any "dual key" command that would dilute NATO's military control.

Arafat frees Hamas leader

allowed Hamas officials to travel to Sudan for talks with their leadership ahroad. Israel authorised their travel at the request of Mr. Arafat. In Gaza, Hamas said four

officials went ahroad to re-

view a dialogue between the

(Continued from page I) day that the security services self-rule authority and the Islamic movement, which has carried out several anti-

Israeli bomhings.

The officials were to consult on whether to halt anti-Israeli attacks in the West Bank after the army has pulled out of Palestinian towns.

#### subsequently released. Kuwait wants Iraq to explain the fate of 605 people missing since Baghdad's occupation of the emirate. Iraq has insisted it is not holding any prisoners

of war from the conflict.

Iraq frees Kuwaiti prisoner

BAGHDAD (AFP) - A Kuwiati has been released by

Iraq after serving a two-year jail sentence for entering the country illegally, officials said here Sunday. Majed Sanhil Metaeb Sahrar Al Matiri left Baghdad on Sunday escorted

by a member of the International Committee of the Red

Cross, sources at the organisation said. He was travelling

home via the border town of Safwan. In a statement to the

official news agency INA, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said

he bad been released after serving his sentence. The

ministry said Mr. Matiri was "a Kuwaiti civil servant,

according to his passport, who entered Iraq illegally via the border with Iran." In addition to the Kuwain, 13 Wester-

ners have been jailed for entering Iraq illegally since the

end of the Gulf war in February 1991 but all were

Sunday honoured 84,000 Egyptian military personnel who have died or been wounded in four wars against Israel since Arafat said: "We will not forget that the Egyptian people have sacrificed 84,000 martyrs and wounded since 1948 to

#### U.S. beefs up security at Cairo embassy

# Palestinians to launch first Islamic bank

Palestiman investors, buoyed by a landmark peace deal with Israel, are to launch their first Islamic bank after raising more than half of its paid-up capital, its founders said on Sunday.

The Palestinian Islamic Bank (PIB), based in Gaza City, has a paid-up capital of \$10 million and around \$5.5 million have been secured. said Khaled Al Husari, chairman of the Palestinian Islamic Investment Company in Gaza, one of the key shareholders in the new bank.

The main shareholders will contribute around \$7 million while the rest will be raised through public sub-scriptions," he told AFP during a visit to the United Arab

vestors for the bank. "Subscriptions will close on Oct. 15 and we expect the capital to be either fully subscribed or over-subscribed. There is a strong demand by Palestinians and investors from the Gulf and other Arab

countries. The bank would start operating in January and within three years, it would open up to 10 branches in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Jordan. At a later stage, there could be branches in other Arab countries," Mr. Husari said.

PIB is wholly owned by the private sector and has already got approval by Yasser Ara-fat, who heads the Palestinian National Authority which runs the autonomous Emirates (UAE) to seek in- areas under the self-rule

Kuwait deficit poses risks

Mr. Husari said they were seeking subscription from outside those areas because they wanted to expand the "public investment base" of the project.

"We want as many Palestiman investors as possible. There are many Palestinians here seeking to invest their money," he said "depending on its operations in future, we may increase the capital."

Mr. Husari said PIB, the first Islamic bank in Palestinian history, would invest in three main sectors — industry, agriculture and housing. which he expected to be among the fastest growing sectors in the autonomous

He said he expected strong

demand for the bank's services as it would be the only Islamic institution in the autonomous areas. The bank would operate according to Islamic rules, which prohibit interest as usury and allow banks instead to charge a percentage of the profits.

"We expect the bank to be one of the main financial institutions in the Palestinian areas. Its capital is relatively small but you should not indge a financial institution from its capital," he said.

"You have to take into consideration its investments. deposits by clients, contribution to projects and com-panies and other factors. Our studies have indicated that business will be in full swing, given expectations of a steady economic upturn after the end of the Israeli occupa-

Palestinians signed an historic autonomy agreement for the Gaza Strip and Jericho with Israel two years ago. They struck another deal last month to extend self-rule in the West Bank. Palestinian leaders hope

the accord will lead to the creation of their long-sought independent homeland. The United States and

other potential creditors have promised to extend funds to Palestinians to enable them to repair the economy that has been wrecked by nearly 18 years of Israeli occupation. Palestinians say economic revival is essential for the success of the peace agree-

things worse, the bank said, "laying a constant burden on public finance to service such

obligations." The bank said the deficit should be tackled through comprehensive measures including raising non-oil revenue. Oil exports at present

#### account for 90 per cent of state revenue. This could be done by re-

pricing government services such as electricity, water, communications and health care, or by increasing tax and

#### Iran interested in Adriatic oil pipeline

said it was interested in using an Adriatic oil pipeline to transport Iranian oil to central and Eastern Europe, Tehran Radio reported,

It quoted Transportation Minister Akbar Torkan as saying that the issue was discussed in a meeting on economic cooperation among Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia that opened here Tuesday

Mr. Torkan said that once agreement was reached on Iranian use of the pipeline,

TEHRAN (AP) - Iran has Tehran could supply crude oil to the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary and Slovakia.

> The Iranians have been looking for a piped route to Europe for their oil for years, and the issue has been discussed with a number of coun-

> The radio said banking issues and the creation of ioint companies to invest in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Iran also were among topics discussed at the meeting.

#### ernment institutions in the emirate to cut expenditure for 1996 although spending was also trimmed in the previous fiscal year, the paper quoted department sources

have been asked to make real and tangible spending cuts in

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf

Arab customs chiefs hegan

gathering on Saturday for

fresh talks on unifying tariffs

on foreign imports as officials

said the long-sought customs

The customs directors from

the six-nation Gulf Cooper:i-

tion Council (GCC) will try

to agree on the final list of

products that would he either

taxed or exempted under a

jonit customs mechanism.

which is essential for the

establishment of the Middle

East's first common market.

end of the road towards a

cusioms union. We are hope-

ful it will materialise next

yeare." a GCC official told

AFP from the group's head-

quariers in the Saudi capital

the tariffs, the establishment

of the common Gulf market

will not be a problem. It

The official emirates news

agency said the customs

directors, who begin a four-

day meeting in Riyadh on

312 items, the remaining list

Sunday, would try to classify

could come automatically."

With the unification of

Rivadh.

"GCC state are now at the

union was now in sight.

been told not to include any new jobs in next year's budget and make minimum

(UAE) do not publish their local budgets.

ture given its large oil pro-

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

WHAT A HAT

CAN BECOME ON A COLD DAY

Now arrange the circled letters to

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argi

made across the border. A GCC customs union

Union (I-t1) to benefit from

its experience in facilitating

would help the 14-year-old Gulf alliance in reaching a free trade agreement with the EU, which has been reluctant to sign such a pact because of the wide gap in fariffs among member states.

After years of negotiations, GCC countries have reached initial agreement on a compromise, seiting tariffs at hetween eight and 10 per cent, midway between the minimum four per cent duty in the UAE and Oman and taxes of more than 20 per cent in Saudi Arahia and Bahrain. But some imported products would be exempted while others would be listed

as special items. A common Gulf market would give hirth to the higgest oil bloc in history, with current production of around one fifth of the world's total supplies and reserves of 45 per cent of the global crude reserves. Its 1994 trade stood at around \$120 hillion and gross domestic product at

#### KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Central Bank said on Sunday population since the conflict. the growth in public spending The Central Bank said the from reserves, already halved persistent state hudget deby large withdrawals that government had made relentat rates inconsistent with less efforts to prepare the

ficits could damage the economy and should be tackled by boosting non-oil revenue. The bank's annual report for 1994 said public spending

growth in the Gulf oilexporting state was outstripping revenue growth and would lead to the erosion of official reserves.

"The persistence of the general budget deficit bears many current and future risks for major aspects of the national economy," it said.

ABU DHABI (AFP) -

Arab states have created a

joint institution that will give

them greater access to the

performance of their finan-

cial bodies and ensure secur-

ity for domestic investors, the

organisation's sponsor said

in the operation of the com-

pany for the Evaluation and

Classification of Credit Ade-

quacy, the first of its kind in

the Arab World, said the

Abu Dhahi based Arah

AMF chairman, Jassim Al

Manai, signed the agreement

for the new venture in

Washington, where he was

attending joint meetings of the World Bank and the In-

ternational Monetary Fund.

it said in a statement sent to

The contract was signed

with the World Bank's Inter-

national Finance Corporation

Monetary Fund (AMF).

The World Bank will help

Sunday.

"As this deficit arises from levels of public revenues and insensitive to their development, financing this deficit by withdrawals from public reserves will adversely affect the volume of these reserves and the incomes generated by

Kuwait projects a deficit of 1.32 hillion dinars (\$4.4 billion) for the 1995/96 fiscal year, equivalent to 18 per cent of national wealth as measured by gross domestic

The deficit is to be covered funded a leap in state spending after the 1991 Gulf war.

Analysts say deficits soared when Kuwait paid its share of the war costs, repaired oilfields and hought arms.

Other economic woes include low prices for Kuwait's single big export, oil, huge private sector bad deht equivalent to 90 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, commercial losses caused by Iraqi occupation and a fall in

that would address the structural nature of the de-These moves would alllow for a reduction in the enor-

way for fundamental reforms

mous role of the public sector in the economy and create favourable conditions for a more vibrant and active private sector.

Financing the deficit by borrowing would only make

Abu Dhabi to cut 1996 spending to offset low oil prices with their 1995 budget since ABU DHABI (AFP) - The the circumstances which have Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Gulf states hopeful on customs union

empted.

December.

of more than 1,200 products that would be taxed or ex-

They will present the list to

their finance and economy

ministers, who will meet at

the end of this month to

make final proposals for their

heads of state at their annual

summit talks in Onian next

tariffs on foreign imports.

customs harriers among the

six GCC states would auto-

matically collapse as they

have already lifted duties on

But barriers have existed

because some memhers with

low tariffs were reexporting

products to others with high

tariffs, threatening measures

to protect their local indus-

GCC stastes — Saudi Ara-

hia. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman,

Qatar, and the United Arah

Emirates - have sought a

customs unions since early

1980s, in line with their pact

that calls for the creation of a

Several GCC delegations

have visited the European

common market.

thier own products.

With the unification of

one of the biggest oil producers in the world, is planning to pursue austerity measures it has introduced to offset weak crude prices. Al Bayan daily reported on Sunday.

The Abu Dhabi finance department has asked gov-

as saving 'All local departments their 1996 hudget compared

JUMBILE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form

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**PERSOC** 

INTOAR

Answer: A

prompted such cuts are continuing," it said, in a reference to the decline in crude prices over the past decade, It said the departments had

allocations for new projects. The paper gave no figures for 1995 spending Abu Dhabi and the other six emirates in the United Arab Emirates

But Abu Dhabi accounts for more than two thirds of the UAE's annual expendiduction, estimated at around 1.8 million barrels per d3y, nearly 80 per cent of the emirates total output.

In 1994, overall spending by the UAE stood at 54.4 billion dirhams (\$14.82 billion) and revenues at 38.5 billion dirhams (\$10.49 billion), creating a deficit of around \$4.33 billion.

Oil export earnings provide more than 80 per cent of the UAE's income and the decline in their prices has turned 3 large budget surplus into a deficit, slowed down the economy and slashed the trade surplus,

#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MON-DAY, OCTOBER 9, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson,

Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get your abilities to the attention of bigwigs who can belp you to profit greatly by them. Be consistent in car-

tying through with tasks." TAURUS: (April 20 to Ma 20) Put those ideas to work which will make you feel you are progressing quietly but surely today. Put your intui-

tion on any new project. **GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day to show your ingenuity at handling practical affairs. Know what

it is your mate desires the most and try to please. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Try to reach a better understanding today

with one who is rather calculating, so be more objective and less sensitive with close LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be practical in organising

your practical affairs today and you will get fine results. Show you are sensitive with fellow associates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make the appointments necessary to have the good time you desire tonight and tomorrow. push talents.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Do whatever will increase the security you now enjoy at home. If you have any guests in, be certain they are the common sense kind.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Plan how to handle your routines more efficiently now and get more cooperation from partners and fellow associates on a new project.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Use your finest judgement today when handling monetary and other practical affairs and don't take any risks with your repu-

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use every means at hand to gain your objectives today provide they are ethical. Being with persons you like is wise.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Stop all that daydreaming today and find practical ways to gain your ambitions and become far more affluent in your ability to succeed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have a fine friend who can help you to gain some ambition very quickly, so accept. Be happy and more sure of yourself.

Birthstone of October: Opai - Tourmaline



But my inner child thinks that your inner child is a big stinkface."

# THE Daily Crossword by Grace C. Pinkston

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11 Leaves

22 Modem

12 Nautical word

13 Philippine island

18 Raise a ruckus

23 Eng. theologian

24 Algonquian 25 Notable times

26 Take it easy'

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28 Ship's track

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- vine? 19 'The -Divorcee" 20 Shoe width 21 Suffering
- 22 Mare's (hoax) 23 Tendency 24 Actress Holm 27 The Bard's oxymoron
- 30 School: abbr. 31 Sea creature 32 — Paulo 35 Oxymoronic adage
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crustacean

- 56 Obstacle 57 Abbott-Costello oxymoron film 61 — Tin Tin
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- 66 Lowest point
- DOWN
- 1 Word by Tonto 2 "I cannot fell --3 Fawn over 4 Insect
- 5 Indian home: var.
- 6 Fixes firmly 7 Grass plot
- 8 Devoured 9 Pipe joint 10 Garfunkel
- 43 Cookie holder 44 Plays for time 45 Retain 46 U.S. president

the activities of the financial institutions in the region. This will contribute to protecting the rights of dealers and investors in the Arah markets. The statement gave no details of the functions of the company or its headquarters but AMF sources said it could be based at the fund. The creation of the com-

the central hanks and the

stock market managements

in auditing and supervision of

pany coincides with reforms in the Arah banking sector following guidelines by the Bank for International Settlement (BIS) for banks worldwide to boost their capital adequacy to at least eight per cent to ensure they have enough funds to face any financial crisis.

and the company would bewhich groups the central gin operation before the end banks of major industrial of the year. states, has classified Arab nations, except Saudi Arabia. The new company is part of the efforts to activiate stock markets in the Arah as high-risk countries in lending activity on the grounds that their adequacy is low. World and expand the inves-

Arabs set up first joint financial monitor tors base," it said. Saudi Arabia was excluded as it was the fifth biggest credi-tor to the World Bank. "It will strengthen the offi-cial Arab auditing bodies like

Several Arab states, mainly those in the Gulf, have reported progress in their reforms, which include stronger control of banks and instructions for them to raise their capital. Most of their banks have now exceeded the BIS level of adequacy, the ratio between shareholders equity and assets.

The AMF, the Arab League's main financial organisation, said the new company would help bridge the gap in financial data given by banks and companies.

"Such a process will in tum enable investors to map out their investment strategies. taking into consideration available alternatives on the basis of risks and return from investing in those alternatives." it said. BIS's Basle Committee.

The AMF. a regional IMFstyle institution with a capital of JD 1.3 hillion, has also been invovled in plans to develop regional stock markets and encourage members without exchanges to open

32 33 34

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

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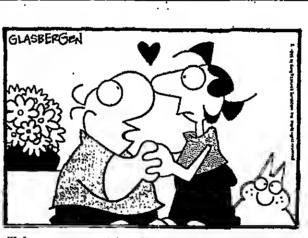
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"I love you with all my heart and soul.

# Peanuts

HEY, MARCIE .. LET'S I DID THAT 60 DO SOME SHOPPING A MONTH FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES. A60, 51R







Jumbles: SLANT AGILE OFFSET MIDWAY

Answer: What the bored seamstress thought of her

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**Andy Cap** 







Mutt'n'Jeff

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ryperionee in familiality after an tree the boundary at 5.6% the active. The bonder of A. Cre C. Custome. Was until help the 14 traine. All allements of teaching to trade detection of with a contract track because the contract. WASHINGTON (AP) -The U.S. unemployment rate held steady at 5.6 per cent in Which has been religion September as 121,000 new while the material of the state of white the material of the state of jobs were created, fresh evidence the economy is rebounding modestly from last Mici years of heggin spring's slump. other truthal arrenning

"This signals a slow, gradual bounce back from the very weak conditions of the first half of the year." said Daryl Delano of Cahners Economics, a Newton, Massachusetts, forecasting ser-

U.S. jobless

rate steady

The basic message is that the economy has rounded the corner and is back on the forward track." agreed Robert G. Dederick, an economic consultant with the Northern Trust Co. in Chicago. "We have had our soft landing and we are now in a sedate recovery.

The Labour Department said Friday the unemployment rate remained at 5.6 per cent for a second straight month. After reaching 5.8 per cent in April, the jobless rate has bounced between 5.6 per cent and 5.7 per cent for the last five months.

The report said that although job growth slowed from the 262,000 pace in August, every sector except manufacturing and govern-ment shared in the expan-

The services industry added 106,000 jobs, retail payrolls grew by 48,000 and builders hired 16,000 new construction workers.

There was little sign of price pressures in the report. it said average hourly earnings increased by four cents to \$11.52 in September after falling two cents a month earlier. That meant average hourly earnings have risen just three per cent over the

Stock and bond prices fell when the markets opened as traders focused on the job growth figures, less than many analysts had expected. But they rallied by midday on reports of stronger-than-expected third-quarter earn-

ings.
Factories, which were par-ticularly crimped by earlier economic weakness, lost 32,000 more jobs in September, boosting losses 866 200,000 since last March. But analysts noted that orders have picked up recently, which should pare inventories and spur production and

Manufacturers are now getting control over merchandise that has been piling up and I'd expect a resumption of manufacturing job growth in future months," Labour Secretary Robert B. Reich predicted.

Government employment dropped by 30,000 after surging by 71.000 in August. The Labour Department said the figures reflected the increasing trend for schools to open in August rather than

Analysts said the employment figures and other recent reports were consistent with economic growth of between two per cent and 2.5 per cent at an annual rate in the quarter that ended in September. The economy grew at an anemic 1.3 per cent rate from

April through June.
Since the economic appears to be bouncing back. many analysts believe the Federal Reserve will leave interest rates unchanged, after having cut them by a quarter-point in July to stimulate the economy. It was the first decrease in near-

ly three years. I think the Fed can sit hack in happy comfort that they have done an excellent job in fine-tuning the economy," said economist Eugene Sherman of M.A. Schapiro and Co. in New York. "They we got the economy where they want it."

More than half the

September job growth was in husiness services, with temporary-help firms accounting for a big increase of 35,000 jobs. Retail employment was boosted by the addition of 20,000 restaurant and bar jobs.

Hiring in the health industry remained strong with a gain of 25,000. Employment at auto dealerships was up

But with the end of the summer vacation season, the amusement and recreation industry lost 13,000 jobs. And clothing stores continued to shed workers, reporting a particularly steep 15,000 decline.

As the economy slowed from robust growth in 1994, employment growth has also slowed. Payroll jobs had been rising by an average of 365,000 per month in the final quarter of 1994. But in the just completed July-September quarter, the increase averaged just 130,000

#### Bahrain plans to develop stock

exchange MANAMA (R) — Bahrain is studying a five-year plan to develop its stock exchange. Commerce Minister Ali Salch Al Salch said.

Mr. Saleh. speaking on Bahrain Television on Friday night, gave no details of the plan but said it was aimed at developing the official bourse into a regional stock ex-

Bahrain and Oman, two of the few Arab markets allowing foreign investors, signed an agreement earlier this year linking their bourses, allowing cross-listing of firms.

The move was the first of

its kind in the Middle East. Mr. Saleh said liquidity shortage after investors turned to real estate investment and higher interest rates on deposits with banks were to blame for the drop of share prices in Babrain.

Bahrain's official share index, continuing a decline in the past three weeks, lost 7.37 points in the week ending on Thursday to 1,316.08

But trading volume soared to more than 6.4 million shares worth 1.2 million dinars (\$3.2 million) from 3.7 million shares worth 327,671 dinars (\$869,154) the previous wèek.

production-line workers in three American states went on strike Friday at the world's No. 1 maker of jetlin-

The walkout began at mid-night after the Machinists Union voted 3-to-1 to reject a contract offer that would have required them for the first time to pay health insurance premiums.

Workers set op picked lines at Boeing plants in the Seattle area, Wichita, Kan-sas, and Gresham, Oregon. No talks were scheduled.

I've seen people in this union, and I've beeo with Boeing nearly 30 years," said Bill Johnson, president of Machinists District Lodge 751, with 23,500 Boeing

workers.

Boeing, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial jet aircraft and one of the oation's leading exporters, will try to maintain production with supervisors and workers who cross picket lines, said spokesman Paul

days in 1989.

**Financial** Markets

**Jordan Times** 

Cairo Amman Bank



#### Weekly Financial Exchange Market Summary (October 2 - October 6, 1995)

The U.S. unit appreciated noticeably against the yen last week, while depreciating marginally against the mark and stabilising against sterling. It ended the week 0.40 per cent lower against the mark and 0.82 per cent higher against the

The dollar depreciated against European currencies Monday, while appreciating against the yen. Reports indicated that the dollar came under pressure as traders sold it to buy Deutschemarks and Swiss francs. Analysts indicated that despite of the selling pressures, most traders were reluctant to close their long dollar positions ahead of the G-7 meeting at the end of the week. Market sentiment towards the U.S. unit was mixed, as analysts were divided on whether the G-7 meeting will result in a communiqué that would prop up the dollar.

The U.S. unit rose against other major currencies Tuesday, as more traders thought that the G-7 countries will stress the importance of a higher dollar at the end of the week. Meanwhile, the dollar lost ground against the Canadian dollar on news that the Quebec referendum will result in Quebec remaining a part of Canada.

The dollar continued its appreciation against sterling Wednesday, but depreciated against the mark and the yen. The upcoming G-7 meeting continued to influence the market. Worries that the G-7 countries will overlook the dollar's recent decline mounted and caused many traders to close their long dollar positions. These worries surface when a Japanese official said that the current exchange rates of the dollar are fairly valued, and as such, any ceotral bank intervention will not result in a higher dollar unless it was accompanied by structural changes in the U.S.

economy.

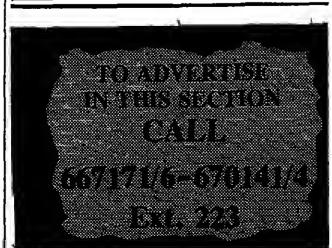
The dollar continued its depreciation Thursday. It declined on worries about the G-7 meeting. The selling pressure on the U.S. unit eased at the end of the week, however, as traders closed there short dollar positions ahead of the G-7 meeting the following day. The dollar also rose on comments by U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Robin that a higher dollar is in the interest of the United States. Meanwhile, the U.S. labour department released September's employment report showing a rise of 121,000

in non-farm payrolls, compared to a rise of 262,000 the previous month. Unemployment remained at 5.6 per cent. The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.4218 marks, 100.55 yen and at \$1.5830 to sterling.

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Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletia

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## 30,000 Boeing workers go on strike

SEATTLE (AP) — Unions representing more than 30,000 Boeing Co. Production has fallen sharply as aircraft orders with about 71,700 io Washington state.

"This is about the maddest

The machinists' strike is the second in six years, the sbortest period of labour peace in Boeing's 79-year history. They walked out for 48

sum payment of 5 per cent of dried up during the recession of the early 1990s, Boeing's worldwide employment has dropped from a peak of 165,787 in 1989 to 105,230,

At the Wichita plant, one striker's sign said, "export planes, not jobs" — a refer-ence to the company's use of outside contractors.

The rejected contract offer would have required employee cootributions to health insurance premiums, as well as higher deductibles and copayments. It also lacked provisions sought by the union to limit outside con-

tracting.
Boeing's three-year con-

Boeing said pay for protract offer included a lumpduction workers now averages \$20.37 an hour, and

annual pay in 1995, a 3 per cent cash payment in 1996, and a 3 per cent wage increase in 1997. The union wanted wage increases and lump-sum payments in all three years, but had not spe-

#### cified amounts. sum payments.

would average \$22.16 at the

end of the contract it has

offered, counting cost-of-

living increases. The average

worker also would receive

more than \$3,400 in lump-

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT 2 bedroom apartment, deluxe furniture, 2 bathrooms, modern kitchen, dining room, spacy salon, 2 terraces, over looking Amman, telephone, TV, video & satellite, central heating, no water problem.

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#### Business Dallus Beat

## '4,000 engineers to work in Malaysia'

he Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) and a Malaysian delegation which visited Jordan recenty agreed to provide 4,000 Jordanian engineers with job opportunities in Malaysia, Director of the JEA's Training and Employment Department Hisham Khreisat said. Mr. Khreisat said about 200 Jordanian engineers already work in Malaysia. He said his department started since last month contacting embassies of Arab Guf countries in Ammao as well as foreign iodustrial and engineering firms to find jobs for unemployed engineers. He said after contacts with 7,000 firms, the association managed to find job opportunities to 35 engineers. He said he hoped the number to increase as JEA's contacts continue. He noted that there are 1,275 engineers who applied to the department to find them jobs. Some 10,000 Jordaniao engineers registered with the JEA work abroad. According to Mr. Khreisat, the number of engineers registered with the association stands at 34,600 and that unemployment among engineers currently stands at 3.5 per cent. (Al Aswaq)

A feasibity study on digging a canal between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea will be completed within six months, informed sources said. The sources said the project will not produce results before 10-15 years. They added that the study is financed by the Word Bank. The sources also told Al Aswaq Arabic daily tbat Jordan and Israel have agreed to build an international airport on the two countries' border, north of Aqaba, and to launch a railroad project linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea. According to the sources, the airport will be built on the Jordanian side of the border and is expected to serve between 1.5 and 3 million passengers annually. Passengers using the airport will have the choice to either cross into Israel or Jordan once arriving at the airport. The \$500,000 feasibility study on the airport project, expected to be finished by mid 1997, was financed by the U.S. The airport is expected to start operations within five years. The informed sources also said that the railway project will be used in transporting Jordanian and Israeli phosphates to the Aqaba and Eilat ports on the Red Sea. They added that Japan migh also finance a Jordanian project worth \$15.10 million to build four bridges over the Jordan River. (Al Aswag)

- \* The National Information Centre is about to compile a wide-range data base which will be used by conferees at the MENA summit. The data base includes figures on development witnessed in various sectors in the Kingdom as well as the history of Jordan. The centre has also prepared information on Jordanian companies, industries, the investment climate in Jordan and the Jordanian projects which will be presented at the summit. The centre will also place computer screens in the summit's various halls to be used by participants. (Al Dustour)
- \* The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) has over the past 30 years carried out about 100 projects which benefited 225,000 people, HUDD. director general Yousef Hiyasat said. (Al Dustour)

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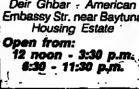
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# **World Gymnastics Championship**

# Ukraine's Podkopayeva and China's Li take golds

SABAE, Japan (R) — Lilia Podkopayeva won a closely-contested battle and earned Ukraine's first gold medal Sunday when sbe clinched the women's ail-around title at the World Gymnastics

Champion-ships.
In the men's event, Li Xiaoshuang became the first Chinese world allaround champion. His near-flawless display in the team event Friday also helped China to their second successive gold.

But it was a bad day for both defending champions. American Shannon Miller, gunning for an unprecedented third women's world title hut hampered hy an ankle injury, came in 12th, while Ivan Ivankov of Belarus finished 18th in the men's event. Ivankov bas been nursing a shoulder injury.

The women's competi-tion was a thrillingly close tussle, with the lead changing hands twice dark Podkopayeva snatched the lead in the last two rotations.

The rapidly-improving 17-year-old Donetsk, second after the team event, chalked up 39.248 points.

expect to win the overall title. There is no doubt that this is the happiest moment in my life so

far," said Podkopayeva.
Svetlana Chorkina of
Russia jumped from
behind into second place and the silver with the day's highest score of 9.912 on her final apparatus — the asymmetric hars — taking her to an overall total of 39.130.

This is the second-best experience in my life. The first was victory in the European Cup this year," said Chorkina, who screamed with joy after seeing her score from the asymmetric bars.

Lavinia Milosovici of Romania, silver medallist in last year's all-around competition, won the bronze with 39.086 points to nudge out ber teammate Simona Amanar.

very "I'm very happy because being on the podium is like a dream...and it gives me more courage for the (Atlanta) Olympics," said Milosovici.

Pre-event favourite Mo Huilan of China, wbo convincingly led the field after the team event, started off disastrously when

The 9.312 points for the beam dashed her bopes of taking the title and giving China double gold in the

all-around competition.

Mo performed brilliantly on the remaining three apparatus to end in sixth

Solid performances on

all the six men's apparatus helped the 21-year-old Li to win his title hy a margin of 0.499 points, pushing Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus, who won six golds at the Barcelona Olympics, into second place with 57.499 points and 1995 European Eugeni champion

Chabaev of Russia into third with 57.248 points. Scherbo managed to snatch the silver medal from Chabaev in the final rotation when be notched up his highest score on the borizontal bar while Chabaev had a poor showing on the rings.

Li, who led after each round and earned the top scores in three apparatus the pommel borse, vault and parallel bars — said he tried to ignore the widening chasm between his score and those of his competitors.

"Halfway through I

"I thought maybe I'd she fell after dismounting knew I was ahead by a lot win a medal but I didn't from the beam. knew I was ahead by a lot of points but there's a Chinese idiom that goes you can only be really happy when everything's over," Li said.

Li is looking forward to next year's Olympics in Atlanta but said he was disappointed he was unable to compete here against Alexei Nemov, a triple gold medallist at this year's European championsips.

The Russian failed to qualify for the individual

"He's nearly the same level as I am. I hope I can compete with him next year in the all-around competition. Next year's competition will be more exciting," said the stony-faced Li, who did not once smile throughout the medal winners' news conference.

Scherbo, who spent most of his time bantering with journalists, revealed the secret of his steady performance during the com-

"I pray to God for good judging and that's what I got," he said.

# Better future awaiting Jordanian soccer, Prince Abdullah says

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein on Sunday said a more

promising future awaits Jordanian soccer. In a statement at Amman airport where he received Jordan's Olympic soccer team upon its return from Qatar. Prince Abdullah, the president of the Jordan Soccer Federation, said a change towards the hetter will take place on the Jordanian soccer arena very

Jordan's Olympic team returned from Qatar where it received a 4-2 defeat at the hands of the Qatari Olympic team, thus being eliminated from Asia's Olympic qualifying matches. The defeat was the third for the Kingdom's young squad. Earlier, it was beaten by Qatar 2-1 and by Iraq 4-0. It now bas one match to play in Baghdad.

Prince Abdullah, who attended Friday's match in

Doha, Qatar, voiced appreciation of efforts exerted

by the team members and their high morales.

He also underlined the importance of early preparations for participation in Arab and international competitions and the need for continued training for national teams, saying members of these teams should be available on full-time basis to represent their countries well in international tournaments.

On Friday, Prince Abdullah blamed the Jordanian media "for destroying the Olympic team's morale" in the heat of competition.

"We in Jordan have to support the national Olympic team with all our capabilities to enable it to improve to a level in which it is able to play with better teams," he said.



ESPERANCE WINS AFRO-ASIAN CUP: Esperance striker Abdelkader Belhassen (L) scores the first goal for his team past Farmers keeper Nippon (R) and defender Sujja (C) during their African Asian Cup match in Tunis October 7. Tunisia's Esperance soccer team beat Thai Farmers Bank 3-0 thus winning the Afro-Asian Cup (Reuters photo)

### Longo takes road race for second gold

DUITAMA, Colombia (AP) - Jeannie Longo of France won her second gold medal in three days with a victory in the 85.5kilometre women's individual race in the World Cycling Championships. In the men's 177.7-kilo-

metre Saturday, Danny Nelissen Netherlands won the gold. finishing the course in 4.52,39 hours.

Daniele Sgnaolin of Italy came in 13 seconds later for the silver, and Pedro Rodriguez of Ecuador won the bronze 46 seconds behind Nelissen.

Longo, 37, won comfortably despite colliding with other cyclists on the second of five laps of a 17.7kilometre circuit around Duitama, northeast of the capital, Bogota.

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Application forms are available from the British Embassy or the British Council in Amman from Sunday 1 October and the closing date for the receipt of completed applications is 15 November 1995.

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Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South hold: AAQ C83 OAQ1054 +J983

The bidding has proceeded:
EAST SOUTH WEST
20 Page 30"
Page 7

Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South

you hold: AQJ84 ♥KJ752 064

The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥
2 NT Pass ?

Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: , AAQ963 085 097 AAK42 The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH
1 Pass 1 NT
2 Pass 2 0

What action do you take?

AAQJ78 VAQ882 OAT AB The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1 4 Page 1 NT Page

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What do you bid now?

Q. 5 - Both vulnerable, as South you noid: 46 ♥A87 ¢J742 ◆KJ768 The bidding has proceeded:
NOBTH EAST SOUTH WEST

What do you bid now?

Q.6 - Both vulnerable, as South you +J2 VHQ9 OAQ975 4H32

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notched up a 3-0 victory over Albania Saturday night as the surprise heroes of last year's World Cup almost certainly booked their place in next year's European Championships.

Yordan Letchkov, whose winner at USA '94 sensationally knocked the holders Germany out of the quarter-finals, was back on the scoresheet in Sofia with a quarter of an hour gone.

The midfielder beat two defenders before unleashing a superb left-foot shot into the right-hand corner. The Bulgarians promptly relaxed their grip on the game, allowing Albania to launch a series of attacks before the hreak.

With a 35,000 crowd behind them, Bnlgaria came out for the second half looking for more goals — only to run into the brick wall of the Albanian defence, and a string magnificent saves hy keeper Foto Strakosba.

However, the wall finally crumbled in the 80th minute when maverick striker Hristo Stoichkov

PARIS (AFR) - Bulgaria fired in a shot from the left which Strakosha failed to bold, and Emil Kostadinov stepped up to score.

Kostadinov, whose last-minute winner in 1993 denied France a place at the World Cup, added his second a minute later from a Letchkov header, following a scramble in the Alhanian

Stoichkov, who left Barcelona for Parma this season, said: "It was a difficult match, but now we are 120 per cent sure of going to the

Bulgaria, unbeaten with seven wins from eight matches and a total of 22 points, are the runaway leaders of Group 7. Second placed Germany, who were to play Moldova late Sunday, are six points behind.

After this weekend's matches, both sides will have two more games to play — the second one being against each other November 15. Only the group winners are guaranteed a place at the championships in England.

#### Belgium 2, Armenia 0

Belgium meanwhile kept alive their remote bopes of qualifying, Armenia 2-0.

Lnc Nilis scored both goals, pouncing on defensive errors. A poor clearance in the 28th minute enabled him to strike a superb far-post drive, and he was left with only the goalkeeper to beat in the

The Belgians took it easy in the second half, happy enough to sit on their twogoal lead. "It was a good first balf for

us," said Belgian coach Paul van Himst. "But I'm not happy how we played in the second half." Belgium remain third in Group 2 on 14 points, behind defending champions Denmark (17) and

played a game less. Czech Republic beat Belarus 2-0 in their Group 5 qualifier, consolidating their second place with 18 points, two behind Norway.

Spain (22), who have both

# Bulgaria thrashes Albania Lewis stops Morrison in 6th round

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Lennox Lewis, known for his rightband punching power, scored three of four knockdowns with his left hand and stopped Tommy Morrison in the sixth round of a heavyweight bout Saturday night Convention Centre.

The 30-year-old Lewis, a former WBC champion, was too strong for Morrison and dominated the bout from the outset, knocking Morrison down in the second, fifth and sixth rounds, cutting him over the right eye and under the left eye, and almost closing the right.
The end came when referee Mills Lane stopped the bout at 1:22 of the sixth round after Morrison got up from the second knockdown of

the round. Lewis showed that he definitely is not just a one-handed fighter as he did tremendous damage with his left. He did score in the fifth round with a right uppercut, but the left was his hig weapon on this night before a crowd of 8,369 fans.

Morrison, on the other hand, known for his left hook, threw few of them. landing several rights to the head and working well with both bands to the hody.

"He was tough, very tough," said the 26-year-old Morrison, "trying to fight guys like that with that reach is tough, especially with one eye. I'm not used

to fighting with one eye."

The right eye was cut in the second round when Lewis landed a left hook to the head that also put Morrison down briefly. Lewis then worked on that eye with stiff left jabs and it was all but closed by the fifth round. Morrison seemed to have

an edge in the first round when he circled and got in a couple of jahs and a right to the head. Then Lewis took charge in the second round and by the fourth it seemed to be just a question of when Lewis would finish it and not whether be would

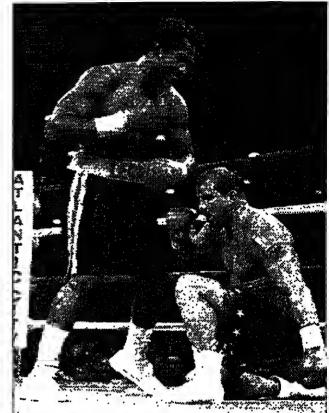
Lewis, 241, hurt Morrison, 227, badly with a left hook and right hand early in the fifth round, and then knocked him down with a right uppercut at about 2:25 in the round. Morrison jumped up quickly from that knockdown, as be did from the two in the sixth.

A lewis left jab scored the first knockdown early in the sixth and then a left hook produced the final knockdown.

"I was real relaxed out there," Lewis said. 'I relied on my patience and a good jab. I was taking my time because I knew Tommy was getting tired." It was Lewis' third victory

since he lost the WBC title when he was stopped in the second round by Oliver McCall Sept. 24, 1994, at Wemhley, England. His record is 28-1 with 24 knockouts. Morrison lost for the first time in nine fights, dating back two Oct. 29, 1993, when he was stopped in the first round hy Michael Bentt.

Lewis earned \$2.4 million. while Morrison made \$2.1



England's Lennox Lewis knocks the USA's Tommy Morrison to the canvas in the sixth round of their 12 round non-title bout Oct. 7 at the Atlantic City Convention Centre (Reuters phto)

### Player suspended over haircut

ROME (R) - Italian Minor League soccer player Domenico Onofrio has been suspended for refusing to get his hair cut as ordered and then talking to the media about it, newspapers reported Sunday

The Gazzetta Dello Sport said southern C2 club Matera bad ordered its long-haired players to get

When Onofrio turned up following the deadline with his bair as long as before, be was barred from

The 19-year-old player then got his hair cut but told the media about the incident, prompting the clnb to suspend him on Saturday and impose a press silence on other players.

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# Justice department regards Steffi as accomplice, report claims

BONN (AFP) — The Justice Mannheim Department regards women's tennis world number one Steffi Graf as an "accomplice" to her father who is facing tax evasion charges, the

German weekly Der Spiegel claims in a report to be published Monday.

The magazine quotes a document from the department investigating Graf's financial affairs

that lists her as an "accomplice". It adds the German

Tennis Federation (DTB) had not declared Graf's prize-money earned in domestic tournaments.

The report follows

Opel Chairman David Herrman that there was no question of Opel ending their sponsorship deal with Graf over her tax

He said she was an inno-

Saturday's comments by cent victim and had viewed for almost eight always been faithful in hours by investigators this her dealings with Opel. Graf's father Peter has been detained since Aug. 2 while inquiries contin-

Steffi Graf was inter-

she turned professional in 1982 amount to 180 milweek but public proseculion marks (\$120 million). tor Peter Wechsung said She took over the manthey had uncovered no new evidence to justify detaining her.

agement of her financial affairs after her father was Graf's earnings since arrested.

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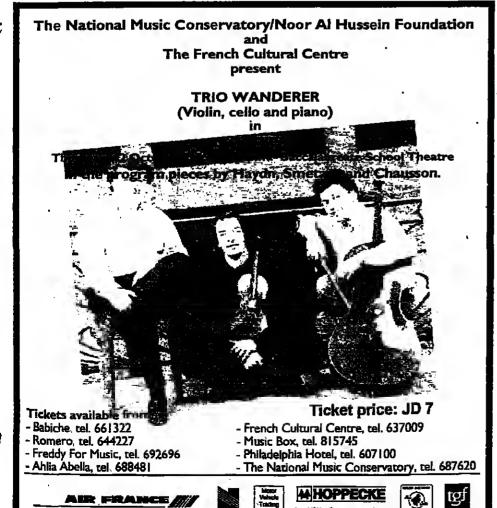
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# Legislature will fare far better with sound reforms, experts say

By Sae'da Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The Lower House of the Jordanian Parhament might not be performing its role properly when compared with legislatures in developed countries. but it should not be long before it reaches the same level if consistent reforms are made, local and foreign spe-

cialists said Sunday.

Parliamentarians and specialists attending discussions on the second day of the seminar on "Parliamentary Work: Prospects and Reali-ties' heavily lashed out at the poor performance of deputies and loopholes in the House's bylaws. However, they pointed to planned measures that ensure a better performance of the House and consolidate its role in the Jordanian polinical life.

Deputy Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat said the poor performance of the House was basically due to the improper functioning of parliamentary blocs under the dome. One of the major impediments, he said, is the members' noncommitment to the decisions taken by the bloc.

Members of the same bloc deliver speeches reflecting different points of views on the same topic but reiterate, at the end of their speeches. to the speech delivered by the bloc's spokesperson, said Dr.

Problems and divisions surface especially when govemnew cabinet is formed, he

Furthermore, deputies do not get proper attention from the bloc when they raise issues of concern to them or to their constituencies, Dr. Tubeishat said. "Their demands and proposals are met with indifference most of the time." he said.

The 12th Parliament. elected in 1993, saw the birth of six major blocs - "six in theory but four in practice.' said Dr. Tubeishat.

The six blocs are the Islamic Action Front (17 members); the National Action Front (NAF — 17 members); the Democratic Alliance (21 members originally but 10 at present); the Jordanian National Front (nine members); and the Brotherly Bloc (five members) and the rest of the 80 members of the House are independents.

According to Dr. Tubeishat, there are only four blocs: the IAF bloc, the NAF, a four-member "lefrist" bloc and "moderate cen-

trists" who number 42. In another vein. Wolfgang Zeh, senior staff member of the German Bundestag administration, criticised the routine forwarding of draft laws to one legislarive comminee in parliament and said it was a waste of time because the law would be discussed at length many rimes. He proposed laws be referred to specialised committees that would study the legislation from all aspects with the recommendations of specialists and interested deputies.

(Continued on page 7)

"In the German Bundes-

tag, very minor changes are

done; there is no discussion

of the details in the plenary

Deputy Abdul Karim

Dughmi on Saturday pre-

sented a detailed plan to

amend the House's bylaws.

especially those related to the

functions and duties of the

Mr. Dughmi proposed in-

creasing the number of com-

mittees to 13 from the pre-

sent four. Each committee.

as it is the case with ministries, will be specialised in a particular field and will dis-

cuss related laws in that field

and present recommenda-

But the formation of spe-

cialised comminees necessi-

tates the establishment of a

special department that

groups specialists and experts

from outside the dome, Mr.

Dughmi said. This depart-

ment should be given the task

of studying all draft laws and

be able to present recom-

mendations to the respective

Minister of State for Par-

liamentary Affairs Abdul

Majid Azzam, who is also a

deputy, tackled the rela-

tionship between the legisla-

rive and executive powers

concentrating mainly on the

double role of deputy/

minister. He proposed that

the provision that allows par-

liamentarians to become

ministers be cancelled. He

also called for taking separate

vote of confidence on each

tions to the full House.

session." he said.

House's committees.



EARTHQUAKE: A local resident describes the damage done to a mosque in Sungai Penuh, central Sumatra in Indonesia, by an earthquake that measured 7 on the Richter scale on Sunday (see story inside)

# Karaki, Abul Ragheb urge media to convey right image of Jordan

Ministers meet local press to discuss MENA summit coverage

AMMAN (Petra) - Deputy and aspirations, but there is a Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki on Sunday called on the Jordanian media to rise to the occasion at their month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference and to relay to the world the true image about the Kingdom's achievements. stability and democratic pro-

Addressing editors of the local press. Dr. Karaki said there was " no need for exaggeration in relaying this image, nor is there a need for linking this major event with unrealistic great prospects

need for Jordan to prove its stand and its major role in the region."
The minister said he had

reservations about certain articles that tend to harm the concepts of freedom and democracy. 'Such articles stem from lack of political awareness or lack of experience in understanding or analysing situations." he said.

It is not in the interest of anyone to see the image of the country distorted with irresponsible and destructive criticism," he said. Biased attitudes and slander even between newspapers themselves will mislead observers about the country and result in misunderstanding of its stands and subsequent unjust attitude towards the King-

He said that the media were still involved in controversy over the role of the official information services and relations between the Ministry of Information and the Jordan Press Association about information policies and the country's national

The minister said that the media, together with the official information services,

of enhancing the long democratic march reflecting the bright image about Jordan and its political, social and economic achievements.

Addressing the meeting was also Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb who discussed preparations for the MENA conference. which, he said, will be a regional as well as international forum where the private sector will play the local

Noting that the conference enjoys international backing. the minister said that up to

(Continued on page 7)

#### Snorers have fragile heart

TEL AVIV (AFP) -People who snore run a far higher risk of heart uttack than quiet sleepers, according to an Israeli medical report published Sunday. Doctors at Assaf Harofeh Hospital near Tel Aviv, in an extract from their report in Maariv newspaper, said 93 per cent of patients with heart problems were found to be snorers. Most fatal anacks occur between 4 and 8 a.m. The amount of sleep was also an important factor. The death rate is 70 per cent higher among people who sleep less than six hours a night.

#### Chinese lured by cable TV

(AFP)

Between 25 and 30 per

BELJING

cent of Chinese families will have cable television in their homes by 2005, the official China Daily said Sunday Electronics Ministry official Hua Deqing. The number of Chioese homes that subscribe to cable TV will at least triple within 10 years, the newspaper said. According to government projections, the number of subscribers will rise from the 30 million at the end of 1994 to 60 million in 2000 and 100 million in 2005. the report said. Cable television, which appeared bere at the beginning of the 1990s, currently offers music, sports, and films. Cable television hook ups are available in most new buildings in Beijing for about 10 yuan (\$1,20) a

#### III-fated Russian circus finally going home

DAVAO, Philippines (R)

- A Russian circus strand-

ed without mooey for

ern Philippines and forced to survive on charity is finally going home. Barring further strokes of bad luck, a Russian cargo plane arrives early this week to fly all that is left of the circus — 13 performers and nine animals - back to Moscow Thursday. members of the groop said Sunday. "When I come bere first time...I don't have friend. Now I bave plenty friends," troupe leader Boris Fedotov said in an interview Sunday. He was referring to Filipino officials and citizens who gave the Russians food, money and sbelter to enable them to get through the bad times. The troupe originally numbered 37 performers and more than 20 animals when it arrived in the Philippines in July last year for a series of shows. After several performances, the group and its Filipino promoter broke up in a row over money and the Russians have been stranded since March in Davao, 980 kilometres south of Manila Penniless, they bad to depend on Davao residents to survive. Market vendors gave them leftover vegetables as feed for the starving animals, taxi drivers sometimes gave them free rides, and a businessman allowed them use of a vacant lot which enabled them to put up a mini-zoo that brought in some money. The local government exempted them from paying taxes, and a businessmen treated them to occasional free lunches. Others helped get plane tickets that enabled a majority of the troupe members to return separately to Russia earlier, with some of the animals. Missortune first hit the troupe earlier this year when two circus donkeys and three ponies were electrocuted after a live wire fell on their cage after a

show in another city. A

## Several European giants expected at MENA summit projects is expected to be

By Francesca Ciriaci Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Reflecting a rising European interest in business opportunities into the region. businessmen from nearly 100 economic giants of the European private sector are expected to attend this month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Amman.

At a first glance, it could seem a small number, but quality definitely makes up for quantity: according to a provisional list released by the Jordanian comminee preparing for the summit. participation of the European private sector is going to be marked by the presence of big companies, covering all sectors and represented by their highest cadres.

From Marks & Spencer to Volkswagen, Club Mediterranee and Henkel, most of the names that accompany the average European every day life are going to be at the MENA summit.

The president of Olivetti, Carlo de Benedetti, is registered as one of the confe ence's speakers, while Sir Brian Hill will represent Higgs and Hill. Also presidents, directors and board members from Credit Lyonnais, Brirlsh Aerospace, Siemens, Alcatel, Baring Securities, Barclays, and Srirling are going to anend the summit.

Particularly remarkable is the presence of oil companies, (Total and Elf), and major banks," said Christian Ponsot, commercial secretary of the French

According to Maria Pia Bianconi, commercial attache of the Italian embassy. EN1. the Italian colossus for hydrocarbons and one of the sponsors and speakers of the Amman economic summit, has already invested \$3 million sibility study for the Red Sea-Dead Sea Canal Project. Mrs. Bianconi said the project aims at bringing the Red Sea water to the Dead Sea, restoring the natural level of the Dead Sea, generating energy and serving desalination pur-

"European companies have a solid tradinon in this area and their participation will be very consistent and effective," said Umayya Toukan, rapporteur of the

Jordanian preparatory committee.

According to a bulletin published by the Central Bank of Jordan, in the first four months of this year. 34.6 per cent of Jordan's imports and nine per cent of the Kingdo exports were from and to European Union countries.

general of the Amman Financial Market (AFM). said that the three-day Amman conference starting on Oct. 29 is meant to focus especially on business and its purpose is to give potennal investors a chance to sound out the economic potential of this region.

"To achieve concrete results, the conference has to be 'manageable' to a certain extent, we also tried to contain the number of participants," Dr. Toukan added. Over 400 government delegates and over 600 executives from leading international companies are expected to take part in

"From the companies" side we can see a serious interest, though at the actual stage we still don't know much about their concrete projects." said Samar Ashqar, commercial officer at the British

"Board members and even presidents are coming here to make contacts and to have an idea of the situation in this area: "If they'll be satisfied, they'll: send their senior managers here again to conclude

The British government delegation will be headed

hy Anthony Nelson, minister of trade. 'Some of the companies

taking part in the conference are new to this area. others are familiar with it, others are already working here, like Rolls Royce, which is now building a power plant in Aqaba worth £41 million, said Ms. Ashqar. "But, most importantly, they are all coming to Amman knowing what to expect and prepared, because over past months they've been briefed and updated with all the useful information.'

During the conference, the Jordanian private sector, represented by the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA), will present its foreign counterparts proposals of over 100 projects. The list of the

Hunt on in Morocco for policeman

ready by Oct. 15, according to Ms. Ashqar. According to Dr. Tou-

qan, besides the official plenary sessions, there will be over 50 sessions, each one with five speakers and one moderator, chosen to meet as much as possible the requirements of balance among different sectors and geographic areas Plenary sessions will be about: finance and investment, infrastructure, economic climate, trade and industry. The main categories to be discussed in the workshops are: financial services, food and agroindustry, textiles and apparels, transportation. energy, engineering and constructions. Information

(Continued on page 7)

# Turkish troops enter Iraq to hit PKK

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (Agencies) — Turkish troops have crossed into northem Iraq to strike at separatist Kurdish guerrillas fighting the Ankara government, a Turkish official bas said.

"We went in and hit them," Unal Erkan, govemor for Turkey's 10 southeastern provinces under emergency rule, told Reuters on Saturday.

Mr. Erkan said Turkish soldiers crossed into northern Iraq Friday and advanced three to four kilometres. It was unclear how many were sent in. "When the work is finished they will return," he

Iraq Sunday protested to Iraq and considers these op-

MANILA (AFP) — tranian

President Ali Akbar Hashe-

mir Rafsanjani has assured

his Philippine counterpart

Fidel Ramos that Iran will

help Manila in the field of

counter-terrorism, a pres-

idential palace statement said

Mr. Ramos said he ex-

pected Tehran to continue

supporting peace talks be-

tween the Philippine govern-

ment and the country's main

Muslim insurgent group, the Moro National Liberation

Mr. Rafsanjant met with

He assured Mr. Ramos "he

would assist the Philippines

and the international com-

munity in the area of counter-

terrorism." the palace said airlines.

and the Iranian government earlier been here and alleged-

Mr. Ramos for talks soon

after arriving here on Sun-

Front (MNLF).

Sunday.

Turkey over the incursion into its territory by Turkish forces, the official Iraqi News

Agency said.

The agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Turkey's charge d'affaires in Baghdad was summoned to the ministry to be informed of the government's "strong protest."
It said Turkish forces cros-

sed into Iraqi territory Friday in pursuit of Turkish Kurdish rebels, causing many casual-ties. It did not elaborate.

"The Iraqi government categorically rejects the pre-texts repeated by the Turkish government to justify its military operations inside

without elaborating.

The palace also said Mr.

Ramos briefed Mr. Rafsan-

jani on the status of talks with

the MNLF, which waged a

bloody separatist war in the

southern Philippines in the

.1970s, but which has since

agreed to negotiate for

The palace made no men-

autonomy for Muslim-

tion on whether the talks

included recent reports that

Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, the

alleged mastermind of the

World Trade Centre bomb-

ing, had threatened 10 attack

Mr. Ramos and other targets

in Pakistan in February, had

ly planned attacks against

visiting Pope John Paul II as

well as foreign embassies and

Yousef, who was detained

populated regions.

erations a blatant violation of its sovereignty," the spokes-

Turkey often sends troops into northem Iraq in pursuit of guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) who have been fighting for a Kurdish homeland in southeast Turkey for more than a

A de facto, autonomous state for Iraqi Kurds was set up in the Kurdish north of Iraq under U.S. protection after the end of the 1991 Gulf war. PKK guerrillas use bases in northern Iraq to launch attacks against Turkish forces across the border. "The Iraqi government de-

He also allegedly carried out the mid-air bombing of a Philippine Airlines flight last

year that claimed one life.
Palace aides said Sunday
that security for Mr. Ramos
should be boosted in the light
of the threats by Yousef.

Iran bas not been directly

implicated in the attacks in

the Philippines although

security officials have said

that other foreign Muslim

fundamentalists are involved

and are supporting MNLF

breakaway groups which are

not part of the peace talks.

meeting Mr. Ratsanjani that

their talks would focus on the

need to "improve our trade.

and economic relations at all

the signing of various memor-

anda of understanding in-

The two leaders witnessed

possible levels."

Mr. Ramos said before the

ernment fully and immediately withdraws its forces and stop repeating these viola-tions," the Iraqi spokesman

said Sunday.

industry.

Officials said.

Turkey twice this year poured troops into northern Iraq to pound PKK rebels. A major cross-border op-eration in March was criticised by some of Turkey's Western allies, but small groups of soldiers are reported at times to engage in forays across the border.

32 PKK guerrillas were killed in the past 24 hours.

They also included an

agreement on merchant ship-

ping, cooperation in the ener-

gy sector, on the environ-

ment and a trilateral agree-

ment with Turkmenistan on

transporting Philippine ex-

ports by rail to Iran, palace

Details of the agreements

were not immediately avail-

able although Manila earlier

said they would involve joint

oil and gas exploration in this

country, training of Filipinos

in Iran in that field as well

calls for Filipino investment

in a rail link between Tehran

and the Central Asian repub-

due to meer with the heads of

the two houses of congress.

The Iranian leader was also

The regional governor's office in Diyarbakir Sunday issued a statement saying that

Rafsanjani to help Ramos fight extremists promotion and protection of investment and technical cooperation in the fisheries

> hu Akbar all the time. He bara Kiham, of Liverpool, England.

Ms. Kiham was in the bar when the man, an off-duty police inspector described as wearing a long white robe, walked in and started to shoot ran-Mangin was also wounded

#### who killed 2 tourists, injured others Doctor Wafa Benhalima, who treated Ms. Cherrat, said her condition was stable after two

TANGIER, Morocco (R) - Police combed forests and manned roadblocks in the northern Moroccan city of Tangier on Sunday in the hunt for an off-duty policeman who gunned down two British tourists in a shooting spree at a seaside hotel. Three other tourists, in-

cluding 12-year-old British schoolgirl Charlean Bar-ker Hall, were wounded in the attack on Friday night at the Tarik hotel.

Police said Martin Gower, an electrician from Ruislip near London, and his wife Margaret, both in their 60s, were killed instantly when Mustapha Hamouche went on the rampage in the hotel's bar just after killing his wife in a fit of passion. He escaped by running into a forest near the hotel.

'He was shouting Allawas hysterical," said Bar-

domly. Frenchman Herve in the bar.

Witnesses said Patricia Cherrat, a British woman in her 50s, was shot when the gunman chased her up

bullets were removed from her back. She said a hospital plane was due to arrive in Tangier later on

There were fragments in her back and she has difficulty breathing but she is stable. She is conscious and speaking," Dr. Benhalima told Reuters.

home.

Sunday to fly Ms. Cherrat

Steven Stewart, a spokesman for tour operator First Choice, said the holidaymakers were given a choice of curtailing their two-week holiday or flying home as scheduled on Wednesday.

He would not say when the bodies of the two victims would be flown home, saying the family had requested privacy.

The guests have been moved from the Tarik to other hotels in Tangier and a few, including the Hall family. have said they would stay until Wednesday. Reporters said there were no signs of extra security at the hotels although the attacker was still on the run.

Ms. Charlean, from Norfolk in eastern England, said she was in her room at the Tarik hotel when she and her parents heard a woman outside shouting: "Help me save

"I said to the man: 'excuse me, can you help me?' He looked carefully at me and he shot. He wore a white robe. He had no beard and no glasses. the blonde schoolgirl said.

Ms. Hall, whose hand was in bandages, said she put her hands over her head as the gunman aimed his pistol at her. "I think he was crazy. I

think he had too much hashish," Charlean's mother, Janet. said. "My daughter is alive. That's the most important thing. A German tourist, who

was in the bar at the time of the shooting, described the scene at the hotel, where 150 British and German guests were staying at the time.
There were about 50

people in the bar when a man wearing a long white robe walked in and started shooting with a small pistol." the German, who did not wish to be named, said.

The British embassy in Rabat said on Saturday it had no reason to believe the attack was politically motivated and they accepted that it was an isolated incident.

"It seems an off-duty policeman in a fit of rage killed his wife and injured his brother-in-law before opening fire on residents in the ...tel." it said.

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